FOR FREEDOM AND LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE

(1)

FOR FREEDOM AND LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE

(1)

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
Pyongyang, D.P.R.K.
1 9 6 4

CONTENTS

1. Warm Fatherly Love
by *Kim Ok Soon* 1

2. The Commander is Also a Son of the People
by *Oh Baik Ryong* 12

3. Strength of Unity
by *Bak Doo Gyung* 16

4. The Story about a Rifle Butt
by *Choi Gwang* 30

5. Instructions Given to Political Workers Operating Among the Youth
by *Jo Dong Wook* 39

6. In the Interests of the Revolution
by *Oh Baik Ryong* 50

7. The Unforgettable First Meeting
by *Choi Hyun* 60

8. A Memorable Art Performance
by *Kim Ok Soon* 77

9. May You Live Long!
by *Choi Il Hwa* 88

10. Enjoying Deep Affection
by *Choi Gwang* 111

11. At a Company Party Branch Meeting
by *Kim Jwa Hyuk* 121

12. In the Course of the Expedition to Northern Manchuria
by *Oh Jin Woo* 130

13. A Deep Love for the People
by *Hu Bong Hak* 138

14. Great Influence
by *Kim Chang Bong* 150

15. Held in Deep Confidence
by *Baik Hak Rim* 158

16. Great Plan for Country's Restoration
by *Rim Choon Choo* 168

17. Under His Warm Care
by *Kim Dong Gyoo* 188

18. Talks with Women Partisans
by *Kim Myung Hwa* 197

19. "We should Value People's Interests"
by *Han Ik Soo* 205

20. Programme of Action for Underground Work
by *Ri Hoon* 212

21. At the Village of Shangfengtung
by *Jun Moon Wook* 231

22. He Shares Sweets and Bitters with His Men
by *Kim Ryong Yun* 240

Warm Fatherly Love

By KIM OK SOON

"You members of the Young Pioneers are our hope and flower-buds on whom the future of our country rests."

This is what Comrade Kim Il Sung said to our dear young children.

Placing such a great hope on our younger generation and entertaining an infinitely profound, warm fatherly affection for them, he always spares nothing to provide the children with the best and most attractive things.

What scrupulous concern he directs today to our boys and girls!

Was it not schools of all grades, kindergartens and nurseries that were the first to be built on the war debris after the truce when not a single brick was to be found?

Apart from the Children and Students' Palace towering majestically on Jangdai-jai Hill and the splendid children's department store standing near Youth Park at the foot of Moranbong Hill in Pyongyang, the biggest and best building in Kaesong is the Children's Hall, the most beautiful and best-equipped buildings in the Songdo-won and Sukam summer resorts, too, are Young Pioneers' camp houses.

Besides Youth Park, there are children's parks in every city and town, and children's playgrounds are everywhere.

The pupils and students are provided with new uniforms at the change of seasons and the children are treated with first priority in stores, restaurants, barber's shops, and so on.

Today all the children in our country are provided with every condition for studying, singing, dancing and playing so that they may grow up strong mentally and physically.

Even in the difficult days when we, barehanded, took up spades and started on the work of rehabilitation and construction on the ruins, Comrade Kim Il Sung thought first of building schools, and each time new products such as vinyl chloride and vinalon were turned out, his first consideration was to dress up and deck out the children prettily by making use of those products.

Whenever I personally witness such a warm, deep love and solicitude shown by him for the younger generation, I involuntarily recall with profound emotions my childhood spent in Hsiaowangching where I grew up under his warm care nearly 30 years ago.

The situation in Hsiaowangching in the winter of 1933 was very hard just as at other partisan bases. Our partisan unit was still numerically weak, and hundreds of enemies attacked our base every day.

Each day witnessed battles going on, houses and furniture perishing in flames. Food and clothing were running short and there was no place to billet.

People, wearing thin, unlined clothes even in the coldest season, lived on grass and bark in poorly built hovels.

However, we members of the Children's Corps, knowing no hunger, lived in the largest and best

house in Hsiaowangching in warm wadded clothes.

Most of us were poor, helpless orphans who had lost our parents at the hands of the enemy, narrowly escaped death from the flames ignited by the enemy or from his bayonets.

But we grew up happily under the warm affection of Comrade Kim Il Sung which was greater and deeper than that of our own parents.

Though he himself was in unlined clothes and lived in a small log cabin in the Risukou valley, Comrade Kim Il Sung provided us with warm wadded clothes and comfortable sleeping quarters, ensuring conditions for us to study, sing and play to our hearts' content in the children's school.

Moreover, he often found time in his busy life to come to see us and told us to chew our food well and wash our hands and feet before going to bed. He would lift us in his arms or stroke us on the head. His affection for us was so deep.

On such occasions, we, though still young, renewed our firm resolve to live up to his teachings and become reliable fighters in the future.

One night after a heavy engagement with the enemy's "punitive force," I chanced to awake and found Comrade Kim Il Sung standing beside me.

He was speaking in a low voice to Comrade Ri Soon Heui, head of the Children's Bureau at that time.

"...Was there no damage to the house during the battle today? Weren't the children frightened? Have they all had a square meal this evening?"

Finding that nine-year-old Kim Jung Heui who was sleeping beside me had kicked off her covers in her sleep, he pulled them over her. He made a round of our bedroom, gazing down at the sleeping faces, adjusting the bedclothes and pillows one by one.

"The covers are a bit thin," he said, "I am afraid they feel cold."

Then, he went out.

Though he was so busy, I thought, the General was still concerned about us and came to look after us even at the dead of night without sleeping himself! A lump came in my throat at this thought.

When I awoke the next morning, I was surprised to find new winter clothes and quilts piled up in our bedroom.

The thick wadded clothes and deep-blue quilts were soft to the touch and looked very warm. When we heard from Comrade Ri Soon Heui that they had been sent by the General together with two notebooks for each of us, we were beside ourselves with joy.

In their new winter clothes some of the children danced for joy in one another's arms and some happily clapped their hands holding the notebooks under their arms.

"Oh, how glad the General would feel to see us in these new winter clothes!"

"Yes, indeed. Let's give a performance of our play troupe for the General in our new clothes: How happy the partisan uncles will be, too!"

"What do you say, elder sister?" All of us turned to Comrade Ri Soon Heui, seeking her approval.

"That's a good idea, indeed," she answered.

"We must tell him what we are planning."

At these words of Comrade Ri Soon Heui, we all raised a shout of joy.

One of the children, however, said with a concerned look:

"We are in warm clothes like this, but the General and the partisan uncles are fighting in thin clothes? How cold they must be!"

At this, the faces of the children were clouded.

Indeed, the General and the partisan uncles were

in thin clothes, while providing us with the new thickly wadded uniforms and quilts.

They were fighting the enemy in snowstorms at that!

The hearts of us young children burned with an earnest desire to repay his profound solicitude at any cost.

"How good it would be if we could get and present the General with nice and warm clothes and a pair of winter shoes!" said one of the children.

His words found ready response among us all.

In this way we decided unanimously to present him with new clothes and a pair of winter shoes.

Though it was easy to say this, it was not so simple to carry it out.

We discussed the matter among ourselves — whether we should get a good hide and fur from old local hunters or ask the partisan uncles to get them for us. Some even suggested to obtain them in the enemy-occupied area where Comrade Bak Geum Ok had once lived.

If we asked the partisan uncles, it would of course have not been difficult to get them. But we wanted to procure them for ourselves and give the General a present which expressed our sincerity. However, once we set out to tackle the matter on our own, we found it not so easy to get them by either of the suggested ways.

It was difficult to get in touch with old hunters, and it was still more so, even dangerous, to go down to the enemy-occupied area by ourselves.

We spent days with uneasiness, unable to find a good method.

Meanwhile, our intention came to the knowledge of some of the revolutionary people at the partisan base, who now came out to help us actively.

At last, we could obtain a suit of new clothes and

a pair of winter shoes which, in our opinion, were suitable for gifts.

On the day scheduled for our performance in the presence of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we brought out our present to Comrade Ri Soon Heui, head of the Children's Bureau, and asked her to present it to the General.

Comrade Ri Soon Heui highly appreciated our sincerity, but she said without much confidence: "Cadres and members of the partisan unit, just like you, have already tried many times to present him with new clothes and new shoes, but each time he declined to accept, saying that they must be given to others."

Then she added, trying to reassure us.

"Since these are gifts from members of the Children's Corps with your best wishes, I think this time he will be sure to accept them."

That day, the performance was given by the play troupe in the presence of Comrade Kim Il Sung, partisan uncles and people of the partisan base. When the performance was over, Comrade Ri Soon Heui went up to him, explained in detail about the gifts and offered him the parcel of the clothes and shoes.

The words of Comrade Ri Soon Heui called forth cheers and applause from the crowd who were all deeply moved by the sincerity of the children.

"See, how praiseworthy the children educated by the General are! They are even better than us in thinking!"

"The General is so devoted to the children that they cannot fail to notice it." Such whispers were heard among the crowd.

There were even women who were moved to tears and said: "It is thanks to the General that those poor children are growing up even more happily than children looked after by their own parents..."

"General, you should accept the present from the children with their best wishes," said an old man, turning to him.

"Yes, we also think so," all present chimed in with animation.

Comrade Kim Il Sung who was smiling all the while, stroking us on the head, took a step towards the people when they quieted down a little, and said: "...One of the finest traits of us Korean people is to love the children and respect the old... Now presented with this suit of clothes, I cannot but think of the old folks, before anybody else, who remind me of my grandfather in my native village.

"I am still young and must work more than anyone else and live together with the members of the partisan unit. And how can I sit warm and comfortable in my seat in this suit of clothes?

"How good it will be to give this to an old person so that he may pass the cold winter in comfort! So, I propose that the gift which carries the sincerity of the young children be given to the oldest person at our partisan base..."

The words of Comrade Kim Il Sung caused profound emotion in the hearts of all the audience. Moved by the noble moral sense of Comrade Kim Il Sung who respects the old and by his profound love for the children, the people lowered their heads, unable to find proper words to express themselves.

It was not without regret to see him decline to accept our present which we had prepared with such affection. But touched by the profound love of Comrade Kim Il Sung who always thought of the people, the old and the children before himself wherever he might be, we all pledged ourselves to become fighters who love the people like him.

Days passed and before long I was once again touched deeply by the lofty and profound fatherly

love of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

It was in December of the same year when the enemy was carrying on large-scale "winter punitive operations" every day. One day we were visited by a few partisan uncles who brought us beautiful, appetizing apples.

"This is a gift from the General..." said the partisan uncles, handing us the apples. "Look, they are Korean apples!"

In order to harass the enemy's rear, they told us, Comrade Kim Il Sung, personally leading the partisan unit, had advanced to the area under the enemy's control and in the vicinity of Liangshuichuantzu routed a transport unit of the enemy by assault which was heading for Wangching and Hunchun. In the battle the partisan unit captured a large quantity of weapons, clothing and provisions.

Among the booty were boxes of these apples which the Japanese had plundered in Korea.

The partisan members chose a few well-ripe, delicious-looking apples and offered them first to the General, the partisan uncles continued.

At the sight of the apples, Comrade Kim Il Sung was much pleased and took one of them in his hand.

"This is a Korean apple", he said in a voice full of deep emotion. "Korea produces fragrant, delicious apples in abundance..."

Then, he added that apples are one of our special products and are beautiful in colour as well as good to the taste. He also said that in the autumn our country is very beautiful with its redcheeked apples hanging heavily on the apple trees.

His words brought to the minds of the partisans a picture of the beautiful mountains and rivers of their homeland, their dear country where flowers blossomed and trees bore fruit in season.

Looking around at the partisan members, Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized that the great cause

of national independence should be accomplished and the fatherland, beautiful, fertile and good to live in, be restored at the earliest possible date. Then, he looked at the southern sky for a while.

He went on to say: "How many children there are at our partisan base who have not yet been able to set foot on the soil of Korea and who even have not seen the famous Korean apples!

"Send these apples first to the children and let them know at least what the apples taste like, although we cannot satisfy them."

Saying this, he handed back the apple in his hand to a partisan.

"You must be hungry and thirsty," the partisan members said to him. "Please, help yourself to one at least!" They urged him to eat the apple, but he did not eat, not even one.

Listening to the story, all of us were choked with emotion.

Even amid hard battles and under difficult conditions in which he often missed his meals and was hungry and thirsty, he always thought of us who were left behind at the partisan base, and he refused to quench his thirst by eating even one apple, saving it for us children who had never seen the fatherland and did not know what the Korean apples tasted like!

That night I lay awake for a long time holding the apples in my hands, the apples which Comrade Kim Il Sung had sent to us. As I was looking at the red-cheeked, glossy apples, Korean apples, beautiful and appetizing, I felt I could picture clearly the beautiful land of Korea which I had never seen. My heart was warmed by the General's fatherly love.

As I lay there, I thought of my past life. My house had been burnt down and my parents killed by the Japanese when I was nine. As a helpless

orphan, I was employed at another's house, where I had to nurse a baby and, besides, had to pound grain in the foot-mortar until my legs were swollen. And now! I am growing up happily under the profound care of the General! At this thought, tears streamed from my eyes, I could not keep them back.

I pulled the quilt over my head and then cried myself out.

Comrade Ri Soon Heui, head of the Children's Bureau who was still up rushed to me.

"Ok Soon, dear, what's the matter? Was anyone unkind to you?" she asked me anxiously, removing the quilt from my face. I became quiet and replied:

"No, it's nothing."

"A member of the Children's Corps shouldn't be such cry-baby. You can become a good member only when you endure and surmount all hardships. And you're a squad leader, at that! Don't you think you ought to be more strong-minded than others, bearing up and overcoming all the difficulties?..."

Comrade Ri Soon Heui said this in a soothing tone. Perhaps she had thought I was distressed at something and had burst into tears.

"No, it's not any difficulty that made me cry..."

With some effort I stopped crying and poured out my heart to her.

Having heard me out, Comrade Ri Soon Heui patted me on the shoulder remaining silent for a moment. There were tears in her eyes, too.

"As the General tells us," she said, "you must grow strong, study hard, grow up fast and become a good fighter in the service of the fatherland!" Then, she grasped my hand tightly.

I was filled with a still firmer determination to live up to the teachings of Comrade Kim Il Sung and become a reliable combatant of his.

This happened nearly 30 years ago.

Days and years have passed since, and yet the

childhood I spent under his warm fatherly care is still fresh in my memory.

Thinking of the deep, warm fatherly love shown by Comrade Kim Il Sung for the younger generation today, just as 30 years ago, I feel once again the heavy responsibility to bring up children well, holding them dear as he does.

We, however, still have many shortcomings and defects in this respect.

Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed all mothers of the country to bring up their children well; emphasized before the workers in the field of light industry that a wide variety of pretty, attractive articles for each season of the year should be turned out for the children; and taught the leading cadres that they should feel compunction whenever they see children going without overcoats or winter caps in the cold winter.

I renew my determination that all of us, bearing in mind his warm fatherly love and boundlessly deep solicitude which extends to every child and orphan of this country, as well as his kind teachings, should work heart and soul for the education of our younger generation.

The Commander Is Also a Son of the People

By OH BAIK RYONG

It was one early spring day in 1933.

Yet, the cold of winter was still felt and the Dooman River was still icebound.

We partisans personally commanded by General Kim Il Sung, while on our march, stopped to take a brief rest in front of a peasant's house near Liangshuichuantzu on the bank of the Dooman River.

We knocked at the door of the house several times, but nobody showed up although there were signs of life inside the house.

It was cold outside and we had a wounded man with us, but no one attempted to go inside the house.

We placed our belongings near the entrance and decided to take a rest in the courtyard. It was biting cold but we were all wet with perspiration after the march. As a matter of fact, we had hoped to find some sort of shelter. We very much wanted to take our wounded comrade inside the house. But we remembered the earnest instructions of General

Kim Il Sung who taught us: "You should become a genuine army serving the people."

General Kim Il Sung took off his overcoat and put it over the wounded. Then he said to us: "One can overcome the cold by taking some sort of physical exercise. It's better than sitting about doing nothing..." He took up an ax and went into the centre of the courtyard to chop firewood. All of us followed, some clearing off the snow around the house, some fetching water from the well, while others set out to bring firewood for building a fire in the open air and cooking food as we had done in the mountain camp.

Later we learned why the peasant family had kept themselves inside the house. The family, who had never before met or seen the anti-Japanese partisans, took us for the Japanese army.

But the family, the husband and wife, were quite surprised when they peeped through the hole of the papered window the partisans clearing off the snow and taking a rest in the courtyard. Not a single straw was taken away from a pile in the courtyard. The partisans themselves had gathered the firewood in the mountain. What struck the family most was the warm comradeship between the partisans. The family saw a man taking off his overcoat to put it over the wounded, and witnessed the tender care taken of the wounded.

"From all appearances they are not the Japanese army."

"I wonder who they are... Never seen before an army like that... Sure, they're not Japanese troops!"

"What shall we do?"

The husband and wife were undecided as to what to do. It was at this moment that their baby woke up and began crying. Now the husband flung open the door and came outside.

Presently he learned who we were, and this made him feel ashamed of hiding himself.

He opened his heart to us. Then he told his wife to boil water and cordially led us into the room. He unsparingly offered us a small amount of maize out of his scanty provisions and the dried leaves of radish and cabbage he had kept hanging from the eaves. We declined the kind offer with thanks.

The General, calling the old man "Grandad," offered him a cigarette. Then he asked him how the family was getting along, why the family, which appeared to have long been following the plough, did not raise any chickens, why the children were all without fur caps in the cold season. The old man said with a deep sigh that poverty was "his fate."

The General, like a member of the family, expressed concern about the old man's life and privations. And he explained in plain language that it was not fate but inhumane twofold and threefold exploitation and plunder by Japanese imperialism, Manchurian warlords and feudal landlords that had brought poverty to the Korean and Chinese peoples and that to put up a struggle against Japanese imperialism was the only way for the two peoples to lead a good life.

The old man was deeply moved by the convincing words of the General which had opened his eyes to the cause of the privations of all poor people including himself. With tears in his eyes, the old man expressed his desire to join the partisans.

Leaving the house after a rest, the General offered the old man some money, saying: "It seems that the Grandma too has nothing to wear except these tatters. Here is a small amount of money. Please take it. I hope you will buy some fowls and breed them so that you can feed chicken to the children..."

When he learned that the man who had treated

him with such kindness was General Kim Il Sung who was held in respect by us like a real father, the old man, with tears in his eyes, said: "The commander is a great man, nevertheless he chop firewood, like an ordinary person!"

The General with a smile said to the old man:

"The commander is also a son of the people. There is no reason why I shouldn't do things that others do. One feels real joy in life and has a good appetite when one works..."

The old man grasped the hands of the General and said appealingly.

"It's cold today as you see. Will you spend this night at my home? It's my wish to be with you even one night. I didn't know there was an army like yours in the world. You've given me fresh strength."

Strength of Unity

By BAK DOO GYUNG

"There is nothing impossible for us once we are resolved to do it."

Holding such a staunch pride, we are making the Chullima march towards socialism-communism.

With enthusiasm and a sense of honour, we all look up to our respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, expressing gratitude for his wise leadership and deep solicitude, and feeling it an honour and pride to be his Red fighters ready to follow through fire and water the path indicated by him.

Needless to say, this sense of honour and pride is nothing new to us. The people who have fought under his wise leadership for 30 years have held that sense of pride for a long time now.

I met Comrade Kim Il Sung for the first time at Hsiaowangching where a partisan base was established in 1932. The East Manchurian Special District Committee of the Communist Party, the Wangching County Party Committee, people's power organs, the Wangching County Committee of the Young Communist League, the headquarters of the partisan force and other important institutions were also situated there. Thus, Hsiaowangching became the centre of the revolutionary movement in eastern Manchuria after Comrade Kim Il Sung, having

organized partisan detachments in Antu County, had moved there. Formerly Hsiaowangching was one of many villages inhabited by Koreans who were groaning under the occupation of the enemy, subjected to brutal suppression and atrocities. It was, therefore, the most urgent question at that time for us to free the Korean inhabitants from the brutal suppression of the enemy. This made it necessary for us to take up arms.

But we had no weapon at all. Axes, sickles and clubs were all we had. With these it was impossible for us to fight the Japanese imperialist aggressors armed with modern weapons. Yet, we could not sit idle, only withering to death.

We started collecting weapons, but could obtain only three guns from former Independence Army men and hunters in the locality. And they included a firelock and a hunting-gun. One of those guns could not be used, because something had gone wrong with it. So, some of our comrades said laughingly: "We have two guns and a half."

With these, we secretly organized an armed corps, the "Special Armed Corps," and launched a struggle to capture weapons from the enemy. Not only the members of the "Special Armed Corps" but also young boys and girls and even old men beyond 60 took part in this struggle. When we secured 7 or 8 more rifles, though of an old type, we burned with determination to fight the enemy.

It was just at that time that Comrade Kim Il Sung came to us. He took note of how it was faring with us and gave us kind guidance. He said:

"...Before, you were barehanded and exposed to the enemy's attacks, but now you are possessed of weapons, though not many, and are burning with a desire to engage the enemy. This is something very gratifying... There can be nothing impossible for us

when we hold the revolution dearer than our own lives, value the freedom and independence of the fatherland and the people's happiness higher than our own youth!

" I appreciate highly your great enthusiasm for fighting. But you must bear in mind that your enthusiasm alone is not enough to crush the enemy and win victory in the revolution.

"Our fight with the enemy is not a sort of wrestling bout held on the Boy's Festival nor a chess game, in which we are pleased when we win and can try once again when beaten. We are revolutionaries. Once we fight we must win without fail. This requires correct operation plans and proper arrangements. We must think and make calculations as to how many enemies we can dispose of, how to conduct a battle so as to wipe out as many enemies as possible without any loss on our part and thus win decisive victory, what our strong points are and what the weaknesses of the enemy are, whether we have any defects and whether there is any better way of fighting..."

Under the direct guidance of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we began by arming ourselves better and concentrated our efforts on building up our base to safeguard the people from the enemy's attacks at any time. In the meantime, we gradually went into action and won repeated victories in the Japikou battle and numerous other big and small battles under his direct command. This inspired the partisan fighters and the people of the partisan base with confidence in victory.

Our art of fighting was seasoned and improved further. Along with this, the people's government was set up and democratic reforms were carried out at the base. This exerted great influence upon the people in the areas under the enemy's control, not to speak of the people at the base whose rev-

olutionary enthusiasm rose still higher.

An increasing number of youths came to us every day from areas under the enemy's rule to join the partisan unit. But our path of struggle leading to victory was not smooth.

In the spring of 1933, we were faced with hard trials. The enemy started a large-scale "punitive operation" in an attempt to dampen our revolutionary enthusiasm and deprive us of our gains.

The enemy concentrated all his force in the "punitive operations" against the partisan bases in various parts of eastern Manchuria, especially against the Hsiaowangching base.

It was April 17, 1933.

The enemies frenziedly surged forward from the bank of the Daidoo River up to the foot of Mt. Bbyojok in such a force that they looked as if they would swallow up our base at one gulp. But they could not frighten us. Though we were not strong enough yet, we had the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung and the solid unity of the revolutionary comrades rallied round him. This thought filled us with courage and staunchness.

Under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we fought without sleep or rest, against thousands of enemy troops. At last, on the third day, we repelled the enemies, who suffered a loss of more than 400 casualties in the battle. They, however, did not give up their plans of "punitive operations." Attempting to make a comeback, they once again came out for a still larger-scale winter "punitive operation," bringing up new reinforcements.

Bragging that they would wipe out our base at a stroke, the enemies mobilized their forces from all parts of eastern Manchuria and even part of the 19th division stationed in Ranam of Korea. Thus, they hurled at us the "pick of their army" consisting of no less than 5,000 infantry, cavalry,

artillery and air force.

The enemy closed in upon us from the directions of Japikou, Wangching and Mt. Mabanshan. The surrounding areas of the base were wrapped in flames. In a moment choking smoke and flames enveloped our base and bursts of artillery fire and bullets of the enemy rent the air.

Under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, however, our partisan unit and the people had been fully prepared for action to cope with the enemy's onslaught.

Part of our fighters checked the enemy's advance by relying on vantage points at the entrance of Mt. Bbyojok and Mt. Mabanshan, while a snipers' group led by Comrades Jang and Choi, both of them crack shots of 3rd Company, secretly approached the enemy, forcing their way through the deep snow covering the mountain and the valley, in disregard of the smoke and flames. Having passed through the fire, they showered bullets on the flank and rear of the enemies from several spots. The haughty enemies were mowed down in heaps.

Now, the enemies concentrated in the sector of Mt. Bbyojok even their main force which had been rushing on Mt. Mabanshan. They made several futile attempts to attack us. The wilder they grew, the greater casualties they suffered. The enemies were forced to give up hurling any more troops into Mt. Bbyojok and withdraw their remaining troops about three kilometres to the rear, leaving behind heaps of dead bodies.

At the sight of the enemy's retreat, the partisan fighters were overjoyed, and not only they. The members of the Women's Association who were carrying ammunition and preparing meals for us and even members of the Children's Corps who were encouraging us to victory, gathered in front of the command post where Comrade Kim Il Sung

was, singing songs in congratulation of the victory. But Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed that the aged, the weak and the children be evacuated to the ravine at the back of the Chiumachun village and that the partisan unit of Mt. Bbyojok move to another peak leaving some observers there.

Though the enemy was hard hit and forced to fall back, it was clear that he would come back with a vengeance. For he had long since prepared himself, and now mobilized a big military force, for "mopping up" the Hsiaowangching partisan base. And, besides, having sustained a severe blow that day, the enemy would never take it lying down. This was what Comrade Kim Il Sung had in mind when he instructed us to get ready to deal a still harder blow at the enemy and thus follow up the victory won in the first round of battle.

Upon his instructions, the aged and the children were evacuated without delay to the ravine behind the village and we prepared ourselves for battle.

The next day, just as Comrade Kim Il Sung had foreseen, the enemy came back hurling a "death-defying storming party" against us to take Mt. Bbyojok, counting on his numerical superiority. But in this "fresh offensive", too, the enemy was fated to meet with defeat. For our unit, under the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung, had already moved to a peak next to Mt. Bbyojok and the enemy, as he rushed at Mt. Bbyojok concentrating his attack on it without knowing that we had already moved to the next peak, found himself subjected to a deadly fire from an entirely unexpected direction — from behind the mountain.

Though having lost one battle after another on the peaks of the mountains at the back of Hsiaowangching, the enemy did not retreat but was stubborn. Without regard to the heavy losses they were suffering and in spite of their men falling in heaps,

the enemies kept on throwing fresh troops into the Chiumachun valley. It seemed they were determined to go the whole hog with their operation of "wiping out" the Hsiaowangching partisan base at all costs. They showered bullets and shells all over the place indiscriminately — mountain peaks, ravines and tree groves.

Having fought under these circumstances for nearly 20 days, we found it difficult now, in the face of the enemy's continued attacks, to protect the partisan base any longer by standing on the defensive alone.

In the first place, most of the weapons in our possession were old-type rifles and even those outdated weapons were not enough to go round to all of us. With these weapons, it was impossible to remain on the defensive for a long time against many regiments of enemy forces attacking us from all directions.

And these circumstances could possibly drive us into a passive position in battle and there was the imminent danger of the partisan base being taken by the enemy and many people exposed to the blood-stained bayonets of the enemy. The worst of it was that the houses had been burnt down in the bombing and incendiary fire set by the enemy, and not a grain of rice could be obtained.

Surrounded by the enemy, we could not make a fire freely even when there were patients who needed warmth. Our clothes had been torn by bullets and burnt by fire and on top of it all, we had to combat hunger and frostbite. And this combat was no less hard than fighting the enemy.

From the break of dawn enemy planes tore about the sky over the mountain peaks and ravines. So, we had to protect the people from air attacks while fighting the enemy's ground forces. I cannot fully describe the difficult situation we were placed in

at that time. Yet, I cannot forget the old people and women who, in defiance of the danger, brought hot water to the partisan fighters who were cleaning their guns and repairing trenches between enemy onslaughts. The images of those people are still vivid in my memory.

And I seem to see the boys of the Children's Corps hiding between rocks, loading and training pistols of their own make (made of tin and waste iron) upon the enemy; ringing in my ears still to this day are their voices singing:

> Come together, comrades, under the red banner.
> Come with one mind to our platoon,
> With bombs and pistols in your hands.
> Come together to fight for power!
>
> —*From the revolutionary song "Our Blood Is Boiling Still Hotter"*

The partisan fighters and the local people had a boundless feeling of trust in and respect for Comrade Kim Il Sung who was leading us to victory with indomitable stamina in the arduous struggle.

This happened when the enemy had managed to make his way to the entrance of the Chiumachun village.

Some of the women who had been evacuated to Jaduk Pass (the Taipingtsun district) situated between the Hsiaowangching district and Shihliping, were on their way one evening to Risukou where the headquarters was stationed, carrying with them bottles of hot water for the partisan fighters who could not even make a fire freely.

On the way, they perceived some dark figures emerging above the precipice looking out on the Chiumachun village which had been assaulted by the enemy. Not knowing what to do, the women

quickly hid themselves in the snow. But when they looked out again cautiously, they saw no sign whatever of anyone on the precipice.

"It was phantoms we saw," one of the women whispered.

"No, I'm sure I saw two persons standing on the brink of the precipice," another woman objected.

"What if we give an alarm?" the third one suggested.

"Oh, no. They will send us a burst of bullets which, I am afraid, may fly in the direction of the place where the General and partisans are..."

One of the women who were whispering, stood up, saying: "You remain here... I'll run over to that side and shout an alarm..."

With this, the woman, aunt of the partisan fighter Choi Chang Bum, put down her bottles on the ground and ran out into the dark woods. She was anxious to protect the headquarters and the partisan fighters from danger; she did not in the least care about her own life.

Dashing in the direction opposite to the headquarters, she shouted at the top of her voice:

"Enemy's coming, he is creeping up the precipice!" She wanted to draw the attention of the enemy to herself.

This was how the women, even in conditions where they had nothing but water to fill their stomachs, fought unyieldingly, protected the headquarters from danger, helped and cared for the partisan fighters at the risk of their lives.

Neither hardships nor the desperate attempts of the enemy could break the united might of the partisans and the people who, under the able leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, fought together going through fire and water, with firm confidence in victory, and protected the headquarters at the hazard of their own lives. We were full of deter-

mination to defend the partisan base to the last.

Comrade Kim Il Sung studied the movements of the enemy and gave us new combat orders. He said:

"In view of the imbalance of forces between the partisans and the enemy forces which outnumber us scores of times and from the viewpoint of guerilla tactics, a head-on collision with the enemy is an adventurous act bound to meet with failure.

"On the other hand, if we remain only on the defensive in this narrow area against the enemy force that is prepared for a protracted battle to attack us, it would certainly mean nothing else than playing into the hands of the enemy as expected by him; it would be favourable to the enemy and very unfavourable to us. In order to save the situation, it is necessary to divide our unit into two.

"One group must stay here while the other shall go into the area under the control of the enemy. In an attempt to launch a large-scale attack on the partisan bases in many counties of eastern Manchuria simultaneously, the enemy has even mobilized most of the police and the self-defence corps in the 'punitive operations'. Therefore, the rear of the enemy is practically vacated now. Moreover, under the present conditions the enemy will hardly imagine that the partisans should leave the base and enter the area behind his lines.

"Taking advantage of this opportunity, we must strike a sudden blow at the enemy by boldly and swiftly attacking his barracks, self-defence corps and police stations in his rear, and cut off the enemy's supply of food and clothing by raiding his munitions depots and Q departments or attacking his military goods trains. This will make the enemy tremble with fear and anxiety everywhere and at the same time bring us plenty of munitions.

"In the meantime, our propaganda leaflets

should be distributed extensively among the soldiers of the puppet Manchukuo and Japanese armies to cause agitation among them, while we harass the enemy incessantly from behind so that he is forced to withdraw his troops mobilized to attack our base.

"The group remaining at the base should avoid head-on collisions with the enemy onrushing troops that are superior in numbers, but it should be divided into several details and, in the daytime, should protect the people at the base who must be dispersed over the area to evade the enemy, while at night these details should surprise the billeting areas of the enemy to annihilate him.

"With these long-drawn, mobile tactics and positive, energetic movements we should continue to inflict defeat and death upon the enemy and safeguard the main force of our army and the people at the base..."

If Comrade Kim Il Sung had not worked out such superb tactics and if he had not given such a splendid leadership at that time, the base of Hsiaowangching would have fallen into the hands of the enemy, the people would have suffered immeasurably and been slaughtered, and our ranks would have gone to pieces.

It was because of the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung that the people in the partisan base could be evacuated to Shihliping and the partisans could build up a position on the mountain while protecting the people. In the daytime we mowed down the enemy soldiers en masse in fierce counterattacks, availing ourselves of the vantage grounds on every height and in every ravine, as they crawled up. At night we organized many night storming parties and attacked the enemy's bivouacs by surprise or raided his supply routes.

When, after several days of such battles, the enemy had been thrown into confusion and the situation turned in favor of the partisan unit, Comrade Kim Il Sung led a detachment of partisans into the areas controlled by the enemy.

The partisans who made a sally into the enemy-controlled areas under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, wiped out enemy barracks, police stations and offices of the "self-defence corps" one after another in Liangshuichuantzu (an area on the opposite bank of the Dooman River), Beifungyedung (about 40 kilometres north of the town of Tumen), and in other districts, and then assaulted the enemy's lumber station at Donggol of Sadong.

After each victorious battle in which the enemy troops were wiped out, Comrade Kim Il Sung would always call together the inhabitants of the locality and inspire them with confidence in victory, thus calling them to rise up in the struggle.

Workers of the lumber station in Sadong, greatly moved at their meeting with Comrade Kim Il Sung, asked for admission into the partisan unit, gave the partisans the new footwear and fatigue dresses they had been keeping for themselves, collected and offered them flour, salt, etc., and many followed the partisan detachment carrying those articles on their backs.

Excitement and delight of the people were beyond description when they personally met Comrade Kim Il Sung and heard his speech elucidating the bright prospects of the revolution, after they had witnessed or heard with anxiety that thousands of enemy troops were closing in upon the Hsiaowangching partisan base from all sides.

Returning to Liangshuichuantzu, Comrade Kim Il Sung decided to go over to a decisive counteroffensive by taking advantage of the confusion within the enemy ranks. He planned an attack on

the town of Wangching, the centre of the enemy's rear.

It was around one o'clock on the night of the next day. Under the personal command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the partisan detachment stormed into the town of Wangching, breaking through the manifold guard lines, and swooped down on two or three enemy organs and set them on fire.

After some time, the partisans left the town and came up the mountain path leading to Yaoyingkou. From there they could command a full view of the town. Many buildings of enemy organs in the central part of the city were in flames, and beyond the raging flames could be seen the watchtower of the fire station. But, in spite of the fire, there was not a person coming out to sound the fire alarm.

Our raid on the town of Wangching was a severe blow at the enemy like a bolt from the blue. That our small partisan unit composed of only 50 or so, while successfully defending the Hsiaowangching base and its people, should have taken the initiative in the hard struggle waged for over 40 days against more than 5,000 enemy troops and, at last, stormed the town of Wangching, the regrouping centre of the enemy forces, practically surpassed all imagination.

We often heard that not only local people but also the enemy soldiers talked about the superb tactics of Comrade Kim Il Sung, and described his agile movements with the word "preternatural swiftness."

Having suffered an irretrievable defeat by our attack on the town of Wangching made under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the enemy could not but retreat, giving up his attack on our partisan base though he had bragged that he would "wipe us out at a stroke."

When the enemy had retreated, our partisans

and the people came back to the base of Hsiao-wangching, and strengthened the defence of the base, where we started farming in the spring of 1934. We were all full of renewed determination to defeat the Japanese imperialists and win freedom and independence of the homeland.

In the course of the subsequent 5 years until we disorganized the partisan base and went out to operate in wider areas, the enemies persistently attacked us, but each time they sustained heavy losses and were repelled. Every time they dared to attack us, we partisans and the dauntless people of the base, under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, fought them back, giving them wholesale death.

By overcoming those hardships and winning the battles, we have come to enjoy the freedom and happiness of today; and we are now struggling for a still brighter future—socialism and communism, making uninterrupted innovation and continuous advance.

I know that Comrade Kim Il Sung who led us to victory in the past, is also standing in the van of our struggle today, leading us to fresh victories.

How happy we are! Nothing is impossible for us who act upon his teachings and follow his example in each stage of the revolution.

As I look back upon the past and think of today, I am convinced once again that there are no insurmountable difficulties and obstacles for us Party members and all working people who are rallied firmly round Comrade Kim Il Sung and struggle under his wise leadership, and that we are bound to win in any struggle.

With this fighting spirit and filled with confidence, we are marching ahead at the speed of Chullima, looking forward to an ever more brilliant and glorious future of the fatherland.

The Story About a Rifle Butt

By CHOI GWANG

Our iron, revolutionary discipline was based on our self-consciousness and was an expression of our unbreakable unity. I can cite many examples about this. I always recall that the discipline was constantly strengthened through brotherly affection, persuasion and education. "The story about a rifle butt" which I am going to relate is but one of such examples.

In 1933 the Wangching partisan unit had its headquarters in Machun, Hsiaowangching. The companies under its command were stationed in Yaoyingkou, Tangshuihotzu, Tahuangwei, Shihliping and Kayehhu.

Comrade Kim Il Sung frequently visited these places and gave guidance to the Party and revolutionary organizations. He looked after the living conditions of the people at the partisan base and also reviewed the military and political studies organized for the partisans. In addition, he personally organized and commanded battles.

One day he left Hsiaowangching and set out in the direction of Luotzukou. On the way he dropped in Shihliping accompanied by his liaison soldier.

Comrade Kim Il Sung had been informed that an enemy transport unit would go that very night in the direction of Hunchun through Wangching, carrying military supplies. He came to this company with a battle plan which he had already worked out.

The company set out in the direction of Hunchun under his personal command.

The battle envisaged a surprise attack to be launched by an ambush which would cut the highway linking Wangching with Hunchun. There was a girl partisan, Comrade Ri, who also took part in this action. She was the only girl partisan in the company, and was especially endeared to the company commander as well as to the partisans. In the battle of that day she fought as bravely as the other comrades.

The company wiped out the enemy and captured a large quantity of food, clothing and munitions. Now, it had to return to Shihliping during the night by a rough mountain path. The night deepened and soon it was pitch dark in the dense forests.

The partisans had fought after a forced march, and now they were compelled to retrace their way of more than forty kilometres without eating. Heavy loads weighed down on them mercilessly, making them pant.

In spite of this, our steps became lighter whenever we thought of the people at the base who would be delighted to see our spoils of war. We knew too that such a delight would not be confined to the partisans and the people of the base alone. We pictured in our minds the day when we should be able to share it with all the people in the homeland who would be liberated some day. These thoughts

filled us with new strength. We felt as if we could carry even a mountain on our backs.

Nevertheless, as time went on, we had to fight hunger and drowsiness. At times sleep seemed to overpower us even while we were walking along the steep mountain path.

"Stepping stones! Look out!"

The warning given by the commanding officer in front was promptly relayed in turn along the line of men. But his warning somehow missed Comrade Ri who perhaps did not hear it, moving like one in one's sleep. As soon as she started to cross the brook, she missed the first stepping stone and fell into the water with a splash. Caught between stones, her rifle came under her body and received the sudden impact of the heavy load on her back. As a consequence, the rifle butt broke with a crack.

The incident was reported at once to the company commander. After hearing her report, he criticized her sternly:

"...Of course, we are marching under difficult conditions. But, just think what sort of a gun it is! After such a grave blunder, do you say it's merely a slip? You are not alert enough! You are not qualified to have a weapon..."

It was quite reasonable for the company commander to criticize her in such a manner. In view of the fact that in those days every weapon in our hands had been obtained in exchange for precious blood shed by our comrades, the blunder of that kind could not be justified on any account.

In spite of this, it seemed that the criticism did not come home to Comrade Ri. She left the company commander abruptly, with her eyes lowered and her lips tightly drawn. She made no answer to any words of the comrades and walked in silence some way off at the rear of the column.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was informed of the incident. He halted and waited for her to catch up. Then he walked alongside of her.

"...The damned sleepiness really is troublesome for us," he spoke to her.

Comrade Ri, however, did not reply but just walked on in silence.

"...But we ought to get the better of such a trifle as sleepiness," he continued. "Could you sympathize with a revolutionary who could not endure drowsiness? Wouldn't it be a shame for him? Now tell me what you think..."

Comrade Ri who was listening to his gentle words, felt like seeing even in the darkness his kind face beaming with a smile. At last, she began complaining in a sobbing tone that the company commander was too harsh in criticizing her.

"Yes! I admit my blunder..." she went on. "But Comrade company commander goes too far. He seems to think he is the only person engaged in the Korean revolution. How could he say that I'm not qualified to be in our ranks?"

Her words surprised those comrades who were walking by her. But Comrade Kim Il Sung listened silently to her complaint without any comment. He spoke quietly only when her tirade ended.

"So, it seems you will be appeased only when you hear me give a good scolding to the company commander..." he said looking at her. "But I can't reproach the company commander. Rather, I fully agree with him. In principle, he is absolutely right, isn't he?"

Saying this in an uncompromising tone, he went on to say in a gentler voice:

"...There is no mother in the world who hates any of her children, though she may have as many as ten. The same is true also of the company commander. Then, why is he harsh with you? It's

because he holds you dear and knows what's good for you. How can you fight even at this very moment if you have no weapon? Would you just be killed helplessly when the enemy aims his gun at you? If you ever resent his remarks, it's just like betraying true comradely love and spoiling yourself. If a child feels bitter and resentful towards his parents who scold him to make a good man of him, the child will only become a scamp. Do you find any difference between our case and the child? The trouble is, I suppose, that you are the only girl in the company. So, the commanding officer and other comrades in the company have coddled you too much, it seems to me, indulging and spoiling you without realizing it."

Then, he changed the subject as if he had forgotten everything that had occurred. He told her about a delicate and tender-hearted woman. He narrated in such an interesting way that Comrade Ri and other partisans grew awake and forgot all their fatigue, and listened intently to the story.

Before our eyes floated the image of a woman who was charming, gentle and yet strong-willed and diligent. As we listened we became familiar with a tiny needle flashing in her hand, polished bright dishes in her cupboard and her simple yet neat dress, and so forth. Our imagination opened before us the panorama of a magnificent life and scenes of construction which would be unfolded in our motherland after liberation.

Comrade Kim Il Sung wound up his story and looked at Comrade Ri. There was no longer the pout which had given a morose look to her face just a while before. She was enraptured by the story and her eyes were shining like stars now.

"I should like to believe Comrade Ri will certainly become such a woman. What do you say, Comrade Ri? Can you assure us that you will become

a woman like that?" Then, he laughed. Partisans in the marching columns also laughed.

At this, she buried her face in both hands, probably ashamed of herself.

"I'll reflect more seriously on my mistake..." she muttered in a slightly trembling voice and then faltered, unable to continue.

"Good... Everything will be all right once you realize your mistake. Then, you will come to know that the company commander's criticism was not enough yet... In that case, none of us will think of sending you away from our ranks... Think it over. It is important to ponder over everything calmly and soberly without getting excited and losing your temper."

Comrade Kim Il Sung advised her to have a go at something that would convince the company commander, a man who values weapons as dearly as his own life, that she, too, was treasuring her weapon. And he added that the anger of the company commander would melt away and he might come to think of forgiving her, if she would repair the broken rifle butt overnight.

His advice somewhat braced her up.

Now she did not hesitate to ask for his counsel, showing her willingness to do what Comrade Kim Il Sung advised. She said she was worried about her inability to repair the broken rifle butt, and she was also afraid that ugly traces might be left on it even after the repair.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was quite satisfied to hear her say this.

"...Give some more thought to it," he said. "What is needed to repair it well without even leaving traces, as you have said now?... Everything will turn out all right if you do your best, putting all your womanly heart and wisdom in it. In case you cannot manage it after all that, you may look to others for help...

There are comrades, the company commander and also me who can help you. Is it possible that we aren't able to fix such a small thing as a rifle butt?..."

Having said this he left her and went to the front of the column.

Before long, the company arrived at the camping ground. After the resting orders were issued, Comrade Ri began to grapple with her broken rifle butt. She was so engrossed in her work that she failed to notice the approach of Comrade Kim Il Sung who stood watching what she was doing. He, accompanied by the company commander, was on a tour of inspection around the camping ground where the partisans were all sleeping.

Comrade Kim Il Sung watched her with a beaming smile on his face. He told the duty officer standing beside him that if Comrade Ri could not repair the rifle butt or if she fell asleep from fatigue, he should report it to him. Then he left the place.

Comrade Ri really did her best to repair the butt. But soon sleep overpowered her, and she dozed off in spite of herself.

How long she had slept she could not tell, but when she was awakened by the bustling sounds, it was already quite light. The cook announced that breakfast was ready.

At this, she suddenly felt a chill run up her spine. She shuddered at the thought that the company commander might reprove her as soon as she stepped into the ranks. She was vexed and mortified with herself for failing to live up to the words of Comrade Kim Il Sung who had so kindly told her to mend the rifle butt, but had fallen asleep. She felt uneasy.

But look! What had happened? She could not believe her own eyes as she sat staring at the stock of the rifle which she was holding. The rifle butt was not broken any more but so skillfully repaired!

"...Am I dreaming?" she doubtfully surveyed her rifle again, rubbing her eyes.

It was her own rifle all right. But who could have done it so splendidly? It has been repaired so carefully and ingeniously that at first sight no trace of repair could be discerned. Nails made from thick wire, cut in even lengths and sharpened at one end, had been driven tightly into both sides of the broken part of the rifle butt. The surface of the wood had been so pounded as to make the nail heads almost invisible. No doubt, it was the work of masterly hands.

She was really glad. She hugged the rifle and whispered as if to a comrade who had recovered from his wounds: "... Ah, everything's all right now! Everything's all right now!" She was so happy that she did not know what to do.

"You are so talented that you can repair a broken butt even in your sleep," said the officer on duty who happened to be passing by. This brought the girl to her senses. She became serious and went up to the officer, saying:

"Comrade duty officer, you are making a fool of me when you know everything, aren't you? Please tell me who has repaired my rifle?"

At last, the duty officer told her in detail about how the rifle had been repaired. While she was asleep the previous night, he said, Comrade Kim Il Sung asked him to fetch the rifle and personally mended it by the camp-fire without even getting a wink of sleep all through the night.

Upon hearing this, Comrade Ri hugged the rifle all the more tightly and caressed the stock of the rifle. Tears were rolling down her cheeks, she could not keep them back.

"... People can be remoulded through education. This applies also to our revolutionary comrades who fight against the enemy, braving all dangers and

sacrificing even their own lives. Emphasis on principles and military orders alone are not enough. They must be accompanied by persuasion and education. You cannot rectify the defects of a comrade when you do not love him from the bottom of your heart."

These words of Comrade Kim Il Sung which he used to emphasize to us come back to my mind with their profound significance whenever I recall what happened in those days.

Instructions Given to Political Workers Operating Among the Youth

By JO DONG WOOK

"...The youth are precious gems. They have enough strength to remove mountains. To strengthen and unite them into a mighty revolutionary force capable of a great social reformation is basic for our work with the youth..." said Comrade Kim Il Sung before the political workers operating among the youth 29 years ago, in 1933, when I was working as youth instructor with the partisan unit in Wangching county.

At that time, he was leading the partisans and giving guidance in Party activities around Wangching county. I was engaged in work with the youth under his personal guidance.

As for the state of the work with the youth at that time, most of the workers operating among the youth did not have long experience in this field, and the youth organization was undergoing a process of growth and expansion. Therefore, shortcomings of

different kinds were manifested in practical work. For instance, there were a large number of fine young people at the partisan base and in the area where the partisans were active. These young people had been steeled and trained in the course of the secret underground work for several years. Some of the political workers, however, had a tendency to ignore or push aside these fine young people because of their minor shortcomings such as insufficient knowledge, their being young, or because of insignificant defects in their style of work and manners. They even would not organize the broad masses of youths of worker and peasant origin. In propaganda and education, too, they were inclined to use language and methods unsuitable to the youth. So, it was necessary to see that every political worker working among the youth had a correct understanding of his work and to show him ways and means of remedying these shortcomings in order to improve and develop the work with the youth.

During the period when I was in charge of work among the youth, I had many occasions to hear Comrade Kim Il Sung dwell on the necessity of improving the work with the youth. Especially, after the enlarged meeting of the Wangching Youth Communist League Committee which was held in March 1933 in a valley at the back of Yaoyingkou, Wangching county, he repeatedly expounded the duties of the political workers with regard to the improvement of organizational and political work among the young people.

As a long time has elapsed since then, I cannot remember all his words. So, I write down here only a few essential points of the main ideas expounded by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

"... In view of the fact that at present the military invasion and intrigues of the Japanese imperialists are further stepped up, it is a vital task to

organize and expand the reserve force of the revolution on a larger scale in order to cope with the situation. To this end, we should extend and strengthen the ranks of young communists and organize and mobilize the broad masses of the youth in the revolutionary struggle against the Japanese. For this, we have to eliminate, in the first place, all sorts of shortcomings existing in the work with the youth and push ahead actively with the political, propaganda, educational and organizational work among the broad masses of the young labourers and peasants as well as among revolutionary students.

"You must not think this task easy. It is very difficult and complicated. If we want to work successfully with the young people and bring them up as reliable fighters for the Korean revolution, we ourselves who are engaged in political work among the youth should first become true mothers to them. If we treat the young people just like a mother rearing her own children, it is quite possible to tackle the task successfully though it may be difficult...

"...As far as I understand, there are quite a number of shortcomings to be remedied in the work with the youth. Some of political workers are doing their work with the youth in monotonous way. In propaganda and educational work, they use one and the same method and words without considering whom they are talking to and what the circumstances are. This won't do. You just think how your mother does. A mother approaches each of her children from a different angle, though the children were all born of the same parents. The words she uses in talking to the eldest son are different from those used to a younger son. Otherwise, she won't be able to bring them up well.

"Why? It is because even brothers are different from one another in thinking, tastes, character, age, and so on.

"Much more, you are political workers who must speak to the masses of youths of different social strata, and remould their ideologies, leading them along the path of revolution. If you see no difference between the Young Communist League members, youths at the partisan base, young people in the region under the enemy control, and young students, and approach them all from one and the same angle, you cannot attain any good results. Not only that, you will disappoint them and bring about unfavourable results.

"For instance, if you preach all day long before country youths who have had no education that 'we should overthrow bourgeois society, obtain the proletarian hegemony, and establish a Soviet system,' or that 'Marxist-Leninist ideology is so and so,' the young listeners would probably not understand you. Worse still, they would say: 'That young man is crazy! How could he carry out a revolution without knowing how to speak intelligibly. We have listened to him all day long, and yet he hasn't said a single word about the independence of Korea...' Therefore, if you speak without considering whom you are addressing, only showing off your 'eloquence' in unintelligible words, your speech will be a mere play with words which finds no response in the hearts of the audience.

"Then, what should our propaganda and agitation be like?

"In a word, you should use the plain Korean language so that the broad masses of the youth may understand, and persuade them patiently. To be more exact, you should know, first of all, what the most urgent problem to be solved for them is, and take concrete steps to find a solution to it. In working with them, you should also employ various ways and means suitable for them, that is, employ such forms as symposium, theatricals, revolu-

tionary songs, lectures, athletic meetings, anti-illiteracy work, propaganda posters, written appeals, and so on. The content must be easy of understanding, taken from practical life. It must be borne in mind in this connection that every word, every line of a song should be aimed at the overthrow of Japanese imperialism through the militant solidarity of the Korean and Chinese peoples, bringing the masses of the youth to grasp the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism for national and class liberation.

"So, the point is that you should know how to work properly with the youth. You must correctly understand their ideological preparedness, their knowledge and class circumstances, and work with due consideration of these things.

"If you want your work to be congenial to the young folks, you must know their special characters and organize work appropriately to fit in with these characters.

"I think that the youth have three main characteristics: adventurousness, desire for learning, and susceptibility to things new.

"Willingness to take upon themselves the most difficult tasks and enthusiasm for taking the lead in everything without hesitation are a fine characteristic of the youth who like adventure. This characteristic implies very valuable qualities such as enterprising spirit, courage, and heroism. Those comrades who are working with the youth, therefore, should foster and develop these good qualities and help the young people in every way to bring their good qualities into full play for the sake of the lofty cause of our revolution.

"I do not mean, however, that adventurous spirit is good in all respects. It has aspects which must be guarded against and subjected to strict control. What are these aspects? The youth should be prev-

ented from falling into adventurism. Not only adventurism brings no good to our struggle but it is a bad tendency which might spoil our work. There are youths who needlessly try to show off their 'bravery.' Such 'bravery' is of no use. The adventurous tendency will eventually lead to self-glorification.

"You should be aware of this and lead the youth along the right path.

"Love of learning and passion for things new mean that the youth have burning aspirations for truth and an ideal society as well as a sense of justice. It also means that they are more sensitive than others and their spirit of sacrifice for the sake of truth is strong. Living under the colonial yoke of Japanese imperialism, the Korean youth have a strong sense of hatred for vices and the enemy. Hence, we must teach them to smash the irrational society in order to build a new society, that is, a socialist society which has neither class nor oppression and exploitation. You should tell them that in order to realize this, we must first drive out Japanese imperialism, the common enemy of the peoples of Korea and China, from Korea and northeast China as early as possible, and win our national and class liberation. The youth will be the first to realize this truth and will set out in earnest to fight for it. And what a good thing it will be!

"You must know, however, that the youth still lack much experience in social life and revolutionary struggle. You should therefore reckon with the fact that they do not have sufficient ability to judge for themselves which is new and which is old, which they should learn and which they should not, and, on this basis, take necessary measures for their education.

"And it is feared that they might take the old for

the new. A person, for instance, might judge a watch to be new merely by its case. But when he opens the case and looks into it, he may find it is an old one. On the contrary, the interior may be new even though the exterior looks a bit old. Therefore, it is your task to teach and awaken them to the essence of new things, thus giving them a necessary training so as to enable them to distinguish between the new and the old for themselves.

"You should properly bring these characteristics of the youth into play. You must know the youth comprehensively and concretely by fully understanding different local conditions and the customs, habits, cultural traditions of the Korean and Chinese peoples, as well as the political preparedness and urgent demands of the youth of all social strata. On this basis, work should be organized in a way suitable for them.

"Also, it is necessary to understand even the character of each young man. We must pay attention even to such small things if we want to do our work successfully. Men vary in character. Some are hot-tempered and others taciturn.

"According to the herb doctor, human beings can be classified into four types by their characters and constitutions: 'major positivity' and 'minor positivity,' 'major negativity' and 'minor negativity.'

"When the herb doctor treats a patient, he tries first of all to know the character of his patient. For even the same illness can show different symptoms according to the character and constitution of the patient. Sometimes, the need may arise to prescribe different medicines and different doses even for the same disease, according to the constitutions and characters of the patients.

"That is why the herb doctor tries hard to understand his patient observing him carefully from the time he opens the door and comes in until the doctor

takes the patient's pulse and finishes writing the prescription.

"If even the herb doctors do their job like this, how can we do our work without due regard to whom we are approaching?

"Just imagine! Can our work be rated on a par with the job of the herb doctor? The herb doctors' work ends when they have cured the diseases of the patients. But we should remould people by rectifying their outmoded ideologies and infusing new ideas in them, make them think and act in a communist way, thus rearing them to become standard-bearers on the revolutionary front.

"If you want to educate and guide the youth, you must observe keenly and grasp even the smallest problems and work in a way agreeable to them. Then, your work will progress more successfully and you will be able to reap a big harvest in accordance with your efforts. You achieve poor results for all your efforts, because you do not work in such a way. You should do your work with these points in mind from this very day...

"...We always say that criticism and self-criticism are important. Yes, that is quite so. Criticism is a valuable weapon of our ideological struggle which helps correct our shortcomings. Once the practice of criticism becomes dull even for a moment, men fall into stagnation and their advance may be halted.

"Criticism can be effective only when it is used properly with due regard to whom it is applied, though it is an important weapon in the development of our work. It may turn out useless and ineffective, may produce, in the worst case, an adverse effect, if you level it at others using sharp words such as 'It's serious!' 'It's not right!' without any study of their characters, on the ground that criticism should be stern and strict.

"To criticize correctly, it is necessary, first of all,

to understand fully the shortcomings of the man being criticized and then delve into their causes, analyzing scientifically how and why they have come about. Then, the shortcomings should be pointed out one by one in intelligible words and the reason why they are bad be brought home to him. Finally, sincere help should be given to him to rectify the shortcomings. During the criticism even the least shortcoming should not be overlooked, but should be analyzed correctly and the way to correct it must be shown, too. Such is real, comradely and true criticism.

"Once this incident happened among our partisans. A certain partisan had some weak points. His comrades-in-arms decided to help him correct them. They exerted sincere efforts to understand his shortcomings and find out their causes. Then, on this basis, he was criticized. The criticism was so fair and uncompromising that the man even wept. After that, he carried out his sentry duty better than ever and rid himself completely of his shortcomings in his life, in battles and in his work among the masses.

"What moved him most and made him repent so deeply? And what impelled him to correct his shortcomings? It was the warm comradely love of his comrades, who were ready to understand his defects correctly, explain them one by one to him, and sincerely help him rectify the defects.

"Any criticism lacking comradely love cannot really move a person and cannot make him repent. Just think how uncompromising a mother is while she reproaches her own child... She would not do like that if the child were not her own.

"She does not neglect even a trifle because the child is dear to her. That's why everyone loves his mother and says that the mother's love is deeper than

the sea and higher than the mountain. Our workers must have such a lofty spirit of love.

"There will be no person but will bow his head when he is criticized with a motherly understanding.

"When criticism is given, one should consider carefully the different characters of the youth. For instance, criticism applied to a taciturn person must not be the same as to an excitable chap.

"Usually, a reticent, reserved comrade is inclined to bury deep in his heart what has been pointed out during the criticism. Once he realizes his fault and resolves to rectify it, he persists to the end steadfastly. Therefore, such a man should not be criticized often. It will be effective to criticize him only once in a while, when it is most needed. If criticism is given at random without considering this, it may be taken as faultfinding.

"On the contrary, it will be good to criticize hot-tempered comrades often. In general, such comrades are not only ready to accept criticism but apt to make blunders often and they do not take things to heart long. So, they should be guided not to go astray, by criticizing them in advance from time to time.

"In order to do work properly in this way, you must, first of all, penetrate deep into the masses of the youth, study and grasp sensitively matters concerning their thinking, requirements, difficulties and their urgent questions. Then you must take measures for dealing with them promptly.

"Where there is a will, there is a way. So, you must learn humbly what you do not know and, on this basis, push ahead with your work patiently.

"You political workers should cultivate well the youth who are courageous, enterprising and have a strong sense of justice, so that they may grow into a powerful revolutionary force. They must be brought

up as dauntless fighters willing to offer their youth and life and fight in defiance of all sorts of difficulties for the sake of the Korean revolution."

* * *

The teachings given by Comrade Kim Il Sung on the work with the youth became flesh and bone of us political workers and a guide to our action. We conducted our work faithfully in line with his teachings.

As a result, the Young Communist League organizations became deeply rooted among broader masses of the youth not only at the partisan bases, but also in the villages, towns and cities in eastern Manchuria under the rule of the enemy, and their work made a brisk headway. Educational work for the youth acquired socialist, especially, revolutionary content, and it was conducted by methods suitable for their cultural and ideological level, their requirements and hopes, their specific features and characters.

Thus, in those days we brought up, as indomitable revolutionary fighters, the masses of the youth who were keenly susceptible to truth, enterprising, burning with a sense of justice, and daring.

My youthful days have already gone. And I am now engaged in a different field of activity, not work with the youth. Yet, the teachings given us by Comrade Kim Il Sung in those days remain as a guide in my work and my actions irrespective of time and place.

In the Interests of the Revolution

By OH BAIK RYONG

"The Party members are self-conscious revolutionary fighters who give their all to the struggle for the revolution and for the final victory of socialism and communism."

These are words of Comrade Kim Il Sung. He requested the Party members to be persons of revolutionary character, revolutionaries who are ready to go through fire and water if it is for the revolution, devoting to it every ounce of their energy and all of their talent, even their very lives.

Every time I think of these words of Comrade Kim Il Sung, an event that took place in June 1933 comes back to my mind. Entrusted by the Party, Comrade Kim Il Sung went to hold negotiations with Wu I-chung's unit of the "Chinese national salvation army."

Comrade Kim Il Sung accompanied by some 50 men went with a red flag flying at the head of the column to Luotzukou where Wu I-cheng's army unit was stationed. Comrade Kim Il Sung did this at the risk of his life in the interests of the revolution.

It was really dangerous for the Korean Communists to go in a small number to a place where thousands of the national salvation army men were stationed. In those days the "Chinese national salvation army" killed the Korean Communists at sight.

No one, therefore, even dreamed of undertaking such a task except the revolutionaries of courage and determined character who were ready to sacrifice even their own lives for the revolution and who were prepared to defend their stand as Communists, notwithstanding the danger they might face.

At the same time relations between the Korean Communists and the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" were very strained.

From the day of their occupation of Manchuria the Japanese imperialists had done everything to suppress the anti-Japanese units that had fallen away from Chang Hsiao-liang's army to fight Japanese imperialism. The Japanese imperialists were most afraid of the co-operation of the Korean anti-Japanese partisan units with the "Chinese national salvation army." They also feared that should the Communists win over the national salvation army units, the anti-Japanese forces would be strengthened to a dangerous degree for holding the Japanese forces in Manchuria by the neck.

No wonder, then, the Japanese imperialists did everything in their power to sow discord between the Communists and the "Chinese national salvation army." To this end, the Japanese engineered what was known as the "Wanpaoshan incident." And they loudly advertised: "The Korean people are Japanese stooges" and "the Communist Party is trying to disarm the national salvation army." They tried frenziedly to drive a wedge between the Koreans and Chinese.

The national salvation army troops were ideologically unawakened. They became an easy prey to

the enemy's trick and in the end became very hostile towards the partisan units. They shot the Korean people accusing them of being the Japanese "henchmen" or "Korean Communist Party members."

On top of this, the "Minsaingdan" which the Japanese imperialists organized to wreck the partisan units from within and the sectarian elements who came out with ultra-leftist slogans danced to the tune of the Japanese imperialists, a tune of sowing discord between the Korean and Chinese peoples.

"Minsaingdan" and factional elements distorting the Party line on the anti-Japanese united front said: "Coalition with the national salvation army should be established only at lower levels" or "We should get the national salvation army soldiers to kill their chiefs and come over to us." In short, they wanted the "Chinese national salvation army" to become all the more hostile to the Communists.

The upper strata of the national salvation army stood for the landlords and the capitalist class and consequently they were lukewarm in their stand against Japanese imperialism. To make matters worse, as the enemy's machination became increasingly vicious, the upper strata of the national salvation army wanted to fight the Communists instead of the Japanese imperialists. Then some of them wavered and were about to surrender to the enemy.

Unless something was done, the national salvation army, a great anti-Japanese force, would face dissolution, and subsequently the Communists alone would have to fight the mighty Japanese imperialists. Then the revolutionary movement in northeast China would become more difficult.

Under the circumstances it was urgent for the Communists to form an anti-Japanese united front with the national salvation army and strengthen solidarity with it for the development of the revolution. As a matter of fact, many Communists were

dispatched to work with the national salvation army and every effort was directed to strengthening solidarity with it. And there were many Communists who did work with the Chinese soldiers. Some gave even their lives. But relations with the national salvation army improved little.

At times like these, activities of the factionists became all the more vicious.

Kim Myung Gyoon wormed his way into the Wangching County Party Committee and headed the military affairs department. He belonged to the Tuesday Group, a group of factionists, and was a Japanese stooge. He desperately attempted to drive a wedge in the relations between the Korean and Chinese peoples.

There was a newcomer who had come over to the partisan unit from the Japanese "security corps." This man was still weak in his political consciousness. Once he had gone into an enemy occupied area. He was so hungry but he had no money to buy food. In the end he ate a meal at a restaurant without paying. Upon returning to the camp, he confessed. What did Kim Myung Gyoon do? He had this new partisan shot then and there! That was not all. He shot Chinese partisan members at random under various pretexts.

Some Chinese members who had witnessed this, got frightened and ran away from the partisan unit to join the Kuan unit, a "Chinese national salvation army," that was stationed nearby. They told the people there: "The partisans kill the Chinese for no reason."

It goes without saying that this incident worsened greatly the already bad relations between the partisan units and the national salvation army.

The Kuan unit killed Kim Eun Sik and four other Koreans, who had been with the unit. Comrade Kim Eun Sik was a member of the anti-Japanese partisan

unit and was dispatched there to work with the "Chinese anti-Japanese units." He was then chief of the staff of the Kuan army. Then Tung Shan-hao unit, another national salvation army unit, went so far as to arrest and kill 33 men of a partisan unit's flying column including Ri Gwang, its leader and a true Communist.

This evoked deep wrath and indignation on the part of the anti-Japanese partisan unit. The partisan members demanded that Tung Shan-hao unit be punished and disarmed.

Things looked very serious.

Though the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" were weak in their stand, they were fighting Japanese imperialism. Therefore, to have antagonistic relations with them would mean a great loss to the revolution.

For the benefit of the revolution the partisan units must show magnanimity to overcome misunderstanding and enmity. There must be an anti-Japanese united front formed with the national salvation army, and the Korean and Chinese peoples must get together to fight the Japanese imperialists, their common enemy.

This difficult but important task should be carried out without fail for the revolution. To solve this knotty problem a person who was ready to risk his life was urgently wanted, an able revolutionary who was fully prepared ideologically and politically.

At that time Comrade Jin Han Jang joined the Wu I-cheng unit concealing his identity. He was secretary of the unit, but he was unable to untie the hard knot. In the end he sent a message: "The situation is very urgent. Only Comrade Kim Il Sung can save the situation."

On this subject much discussion took place in the East Manchurian Special Committee. But every-

one was so concerned about Comrade Kim Il Sung's safety, no final conclusion could be reached.

Comrade Kim Il Sung determined to go to the Wu I-cheng unit personally. This is what he said:

"The 'Chinese anti-Japanese national salvation army', because of its political immaturity, fails to comprehend the character of our just struggle against Japanese imperialism. They even kill Korean Communists. However, we must approach them and expose the cunning tricks of the Japanese imperialists, who are set to drive a wedge in our relations with them. We should make them see that the Japanese imperialists are the inveterate enemy of both the Korean and Chinese peoples. We must set examples to them through our own activities and struggles. Then they, too, will follow us in the fight against the Japanese imperialists.

"In their relations with the people, too, their flagrant predatory nature can be reformed, if we persuade and educate them perseveringly. A united front with the 'Chinese anti-Japanese national salvation army' is quite feasible and it is a revolutionary task calling for urgent solution. If we give up this task because it is a difficult one, it is not the stand of genuine revolutionaries..."

We were greatly stirred by his lofty character as a revolutionary: for the revolution he was ready to risk even his life. He was ready to go through anything, if it was in the interests of the revolution.

Our confidence in him was deepened, our respects for him heightened. Again we pledged to follow him to our dying breath.

Everyone of us volunteered to accompany him. I, too, wanted most earnestly to go with him and was accepted.

We did so only to protect him, never thinking of personal danger. Our minds were at ease.

At that time the Wu I-cheng unit held Luotzukou city temporarily.

Riding on a horse, Comrade Kim Il Sung, the then regimental commander and political commissar, made a gallant entry into Luotzukou city at the head of the columns that were marching flying a red flag and with their trumpets sounding.

He seemed to be least concerned about any possible danger. He was composed and undisturbed, full of confidence.

We marched in a stately manner towards the headquarters of the Wu I-cheng unit. Perhaps struck by our imposing appearance and dignity, soldiers of the "Chinese anti-Japanese unit" were dumbfounded and did not attempt to approach us.

Even Wu I-cheng and his officers could not take lightly the presence of Comrade Kim Il Sung, his bold and daring move.

When they were told that we were there for talks, they talked among themselves for some time. Then trying very hard to conceal their surprise, they came out with a well-let's-hear attitude.

At first Wu I-cheng relying on his strong forces made no secret of his dislike of Korean Communists.

But Comrade Kim Il Sung, calm and dignified, treated them politely.

Warlords of the Wu I-cheng unit were persons who had gone through a varied experience. But they could not but face Comrade Kim Il Sung with full respect and politeness for his gentle but firm revolutionary character.

Comrade Kim Il Sung spoke in fluent Chinese. Every word was to the point. His well-founded contention and intelligence, strategy and spirit, which showed that Comrade Kim Il Sung had a complete knowledge of every aspect of the revolution, won Wu I-cheng's admiration.

At first Wu I-cheng tried to hold to his narrow

views. Now and then he shook his head dubiously. However, eventually he was deeply moved by Comrade Kim Il Sung's noble ideas and sound logic. At last won over by the clear logic and noble bearing of Comrade Kim Il Sung, he gave his promise of friendship and co-operation.

Wu I-cheng and others held Comrade Kim Il Sung in great esteem calling him respectfully "Chin Ssu-ling" (Commander Kim, in Chinese).

In this way Comrade Kim Il Sung succeeded in the negotiations with the cadres of the "Chinese national salvation army", and brought a turn in the formation of an anti-Japanese united front.

This marked the beginning of a great turn in better relations between the Korean Communists and the "Chinese national salvation army". It served as a foundation for the anti-Japanese coalition army to come.

Is there any need of dwelling on the point of how greatly the revolution would have suffered had not this question been cleared up? If we had failed to win over the "Chinese national salvation army", they would not have fought side by side with us for many years against Japanese imperialism.

Only because of the selfless struggle of Comrade Kim Il Sung who with lofty revolutionary spirit cleared away the danger for the revolution at the risk of his life, the revolution was given a great upsurge.

After the negotiation the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" scattered in all regions came to rally their forces and under Comrade Kim Il Sung's leadership fought jointly with our partisan units against Japanese imperialism, the common enemy.

The combined operations of the Korean anti-Japanese partisan units and the "Chinese national salvation army units" repeatedly won great victories in many battles, big and small: some of the most

outstanding ones were the Battle at Tungning county seat in September 1933, in which some 1,000 men of the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" took part with the Korean partisans under the leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the Tatientzu and Luotzukou battles and the Battle at Fusung county seat in August 1936.

I still remember how glad and happy the people were when the partisan units with the Wu I-cheng unit liberated Wangching city and distributed clothes and many other supplies for winter to the people immediately after the Battle at Tungning county seat.

Through this battle the solidarity of the partisan units with the national salvation army units was strengthened. The prestige of the Korean partisans and the people's confidence in them heightened without parallel.

Every time I think about this great event, I am deeply moved by the revolutionary character of Comrade Kim Il Sung. No risk was too great for him, if it was for saving the revolution from danger. I pledge once again from the bottom of my heart that I must learn from the examples set by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Our country is not yet unified. We should not live in idleness. We should be always prepared to go through fire and water and risk even our lives, showing not the slightest wavering at any moment, at any place, at any difficult or dangerous task, if it be in the interests of the revolution or at the call of the Party.

This is easy to say, but to carry it into effect at any given moment is quite another thing.

However, only when we carry it into practice can we call ourselves members of the Workers' Party of Korea, a party of Marxism-Leninism.

That is why I am doing my best to learn from

Comrade Kim Il Sung and prepare myself to fight following his example, at the cost of my life, for the unification and prosperity of the motherland, for the liberation and happiness of the people.

The Unforgettable First Meeting

By CHOI HYUN

It was in September 1933 that I met Comrade Kim Il Sung for the first time.

At that time I was a company commander of the partisan unit in the Yenchi district. There was an order from Comrade Kim Il Sung that I should hurry to the Wangching partisan base with my unit, fully prepared for battle.

I had been among the ranks of the partisan units more than one year. Though I had wished so much to see him, I was yet to meet him. So you can imagine how happy and excited I was when I received his order. This joy was not mine only, but every member of my company shared it.

We hurried on our way and reached Machun—the Hsiaowangching partisan base—in a short time. When we got there, we were led to the headquarters of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

It has been exactly 26 years since that day. But how fresh everything is in my mind!

There was a small grass-roofed house standing on a mound. A clear stream was murmuring down the little valley.

When we reached the house, the comrade who was leading us made a report. Then the front gate was opened wide and a dignified looking young cadre came outside. Holding out his hand, he said in a pleasant voice:

"I'm certainly glad to see you, Comrade Choi Hyun."

I knew right away this was General Kim Il Sung. I was greatly moved. True, it was the first time that I had seen him in person. But, because for a long time I had entrusted everything to him, I never felt that I was meeting him for the first time.

I told him I had come, as ordered, with my company. Then he said:

"Good, well done! As a matter of fact, I have been awaiting your arrival for some time. Let's go in!"

He led me into a room. It was a modest room. There was a low table in the middle of the room, on which a few books and maps lay open.

As we sat down General Kim Il Sung said:

"You know, I have wanted to see you for a long time..."

His welcome was so overwhelming that I did not know what to say. Then he continued:

"...I called you because I wanted your unit to take part in the Battle at Tungning county seat... But I regret that my word failed to reach you in time..."

Then he told me that he had been back for three days from the victorious campaign at Tungning county seat.

When I heard this—that our unit could not take part in the battle—I felt so discouraged. As we hurried along our way to Hsiaowangching, I had determined to give the enemy a crushing defeat—my first participation in a campaign led by General

Kim Il Sung personally. But the battle was over, so I asked this question:

"Is any campaign planned in the near future?"

Obviously he knew why I put this sort of question and said:

"Please don't feel too bad about it. There will be many, many campaigns, of course... Now let's talk about something we should do in the future."

When he talked to me in this vein, I decided not to pursue the subject further. And his words relieved my regret gradually.

Comrade Kim Il Sung then posed several questions about the partisan activities and local situation in the Yenchi county. Among the many questions that he asked me, there were some that I had thought of before. But there were many that had never occurred to me. He was fully informed about the things that he asked and he knew exactly what should be done to solve each problem.

In the course of our talk, listening to his quiet voice and telling him all the things that I had learned and thought of, I felt closer to him than ever.

After supper Comrade Kim Il Sung talked to me for hours about how the campaign at Tungning county seat had been organized and fought and about the significance of the campaign.

Tungning county seat occupied an important position, politically and militarily, since it was on the Soviet-Chinese border. At that time, the Japanese imperialists had set up many military installations and greatly strengthened their military forces for their aggression against the Soviet Union. Consequently, the Tungning campaign waged by the anti-Japanese partisan units under the personal command of Comrade Kim Il Sung was of great significance politically and militarily.

In the Tungning campaign he attached great strategic importance to large-scale joint actions with

the forces of the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" which had been scattered around in eastern Manchuria.

At that time the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" (known as the national salvation army) were to be found throughout eastern Manchuria. Formerly, they had belonged to the armed units of a warlord Chang Hsiao-liang, but fell off upon the downfall of Chang after Japanese invasion of Manchuria. These armed units were against the Japanese. However, in essence they represented the interests of landlords and capitalists. They were of nationalistic nature and their political awakening was very negligible. As a result, even though they were fighting Japanese imperialism, they were unable to put up any positive struggle. The units maintained isolated positions with their bases mostly in forests. Moreover, taken in by the vicious Japanese propaganda, they even killed Koreans on the pretext that the Koreans were either "pro-Japanese" or "Communists." Some of the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" became chauvinistic. The situation was alarming. To make matters worse, in eastern Manchuria such vicious factionists as Kim Sung Do, Song Il and others advanced ultra-left slogans, driving a wedge between the Koreans and the Chinese and making the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" hostile to the Korean Communists. It was around this time a true Korean Communist Ri Kwang who had been a leader of a detached force was killed by the anti-Japanese unit led by Tung San-hao.

Under these circumstances, it was by no means an easy task to convince the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" and get them to conduct joint action with our anti-Japanese partisan units. It had to be carried out at the risk of one's life. Moreover, one had to be a broad-minded person having political ability to solve such a complicated, but very important problem.

Some members hesitated to conduct joint action with the "Chinese anti-Japanese units".

However, Comrade Kim Il Sung saw the problem in its true light. It was true that the Chinese anti-Japanese units, because of their narrow class views and low political awakening, were reluctant to conduct joint action with us. But they, too, were fighting Japanese imperialism. In this respect, their aim was the same with ours. Comrade Kim Il Sung was sure that they would come along with us if we could make them see the just cause of our partisan struggle and the advantages of joint action. And boldly he undertook the big Korean-Chinese joint action against the Japanese imperialists. It was the first such joint action since the anti-Japanese partisan units were organized. Comrade Kim Il Sung told me:

"...It was a very difficult problem to conduct a joint campaign with the 'Chinese anti-Japanese units'. But it was a revolutionary task which demanded an immediate solution, and it could be solved. Therefore, we discussed this problem in good earnest, and under the Party's instruction, I went there. With some 50 members of our units I went to the Wu I-cheng unit and explained concretely about the aims of our struggle and the tremendous significance of a united front. At first they were somewhat doubtful, but eventually they were convinced of the correctness of our proposals. We succeeded, as we hoped, in making them understand our position and in conducting the joint campaign."

Frankly speaking, in eastern Manchuria, there was no one except Comrade Kim Il Sung who enjoyed such political trust and personal prestige and who was endowed with such superior ability as to persuade the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" to join in our struggle. At last he succeeded in fulfilling this arduous task at the risk of great danger. Thanks to his efforts, some 1,000 men of the "Chinese anti-Japanese

units" under the command of Wu I-cheng, Shih and Tsai took part in the joint campaign with the anti-Japanese partisan units under the unified command of Comrade Kim Il Sung. The might of the Korean-Chinese united front was fully shown and it served to deliver a staggering blow to the Japanese imperialists, militarily, politically, and morally.

However, it must be pointed out that everything did not go on smoothly from the beginning. In the battle the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" were not up to par at the beginning. Some of their men ran away, frightened even at the sight of stacks of crops. But our partisan units always stood at the head in the battle. And I must say this encouraged them very much. Even when commander Shih was wounded in the battle, his men ran away leaving him in the lurch. But Comrade Kim Il Sung saved his life.

In this way, through the campaign, members of the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" came to appreciate the superb commandership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, and the bravery and noble sense of comradeship of our partisan members. They came to have a correct understanding of the anti-Japanese partisan units and they even came to know the Communists were wonderful people.

Analysing the great significance of the victory in the Battle at Tungning county seat Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"It is of great importance to realize a united front composed of the Korean partisans and 'Chinese anti-Japanese units' in the common struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors. But this is not enough. We must extend and strengthen the united front not only with the 'Chinese anti-Japanese units', but with the broad masses of the Chinese people. Never a moment should we forget that this is an important factor in the victory of our revolution."

Upholding the clear-cut line laid down by Comrade Kim Il Sung as my guiding principle for strengthening the united front of the peoples of Korea and China, I directed deep attention to cementing the militant ties with the Chinese people through my long years of partisan struggle against Japanese imperialism. And some success was achieved in the work with the "Chinese anti-Japanese units", sometimes even with the conscientious elements within the puppet Manchukuo army.

The line of forming the united front mentioned by Comrade Kim Il Sung at that time was not limited to the anti-Japanese united front with the Chinese people.

He said the Korean revolution would not be victorious if only a limited number of Korean Communists worked for it. But there were great revolutionary forces of all walks of life, the workers and peasants included, who had risen in the anti-Japanese struggle within and without the country. All these forces, he maintained, should be united into revolutionary organizations and be called upon to wage a more powerful struggle against Japanese imperialism. He went on to say that we must put up a strenuous struggle against those who had wormed their way into our ranks, adherents of the "Left" closed-door policy who were bent on wrecking the united front, and the Right capitulationists who were attempting to crush the unity of our ranks.

He continued:

"Organizing and expanding various mass organizations, we must prepare for expanding the anti-Japanese united national front organizations even into Korea on a wide scale. If we possess no broad political outlook, and if we fail to wage such strenuous struggle and make such preparations, and if we think victory will come easily, obviously we are daydreaming."

He spoke of this in a very serious tone; gazing at me with his bright eyes. He explained each problem to me with much zeal and in an interesting way using concrete examples. I was so drawn by his words, I did not even realize that we had talked into the early morning hours. Only towards daybreak did we go to bed. But sleep did not come to me, because what he told me kept coming back to me.

Next morning there came an urgent signal from sentry post that the enemy was approaching.

Following Comrade Kim Il Sung I climbed the mountain in the rear of the house. He ordered the units to the elevated positions and then we all waited for the enemy. I was confident of victory and full of joy, since I could at last fight the enemy under his command as I had desired so long!

But the enemy's "punitive units" did not come near the place where we were waiting for them. The enemy simply got scared, so they fired at random for hours at the foot of the hill. Then the cowardly enemy soldiers started to set fire to the stacks of grain in the fields.

Comrade Kim Il Sung who had been watching the enemy's movement, ordered his men to shoot every Japanese soldier.

Then turning to me he said:

"By the way, Comrade Choi, I hear you're an excellent shot. Now, come on and show me your skill."

With all modesty, I must say I never take anything except the top when it comes to shooting. So, without any hesitation I took up my Swiss-made rifle and took aim at a Japanese soldier. The enemy soldiers were some 500 metres away from where we were, so it was not an easy distance to hit the target. Slowly and calmly I took aim, then pulled the trigger. An enemy soldier who was dashing with a torch towards the grain stacks fell.

Then Comrade Kim Il Sung who was watching me said, "wow! You're a good shot! Let me try a few shots." He picked up the rifle and fired four or five shots in succession. And every shot hit Japanese soldiers. All the partisan members set up shouts of joy and increased the intensity of their firing. Eventually the Japanese "punitive units" took to their heels.

In the evening Comrade Kim Il Sung again talked to me. At the outset he said:

"Many important revolutionary tasks lie before us. Well, Comrade Choi, what would you say is the most important question in our struggle? Please give me your opinion frankly."

To tell the truth, I was only interested in his ideas. I had listened to his words earnestly but I had formed no systematic views. Of course, with some confidence I could talk about military affairs, but more study was needed when it came to the concrete problems related to the Korean revolution. I told him the views I had held for some time.

"In my opinion, it is urgent, above all, to strengthen the partisan units. We must rapidly enlarge our ranks into great forces. Then we must advance towards our land of Korea crushing the Japanese imperialists."

"You're right. That's the very point. And I do feel as you do. Unless we unite and strengthen all revolutionary forces, we cannot achieve our just goal and mission," he said.

Thus expressing his agreement with my views, Comrade Kim Il Sung started to tell me about the problems related to the build-up of the partisan units, and characteristics and essence of the anti-Japanese partisan units. I do not recall everything that was said that night, but I remember it ran something like this:

"...The anti-Japanese partisan units should be-

come the true armed forces of the people who are fighting the Japanese imperialists and their hirelings for the country's independence and liberation. It is the earnest desire of the entire Korean people to crush Japanese imperialism as early as possible and win the freedom and independence of the country. Therefore, the anti-Japanese partisan units must unite all anti-Japanese revolutionary forces, wage an armed struggle on a wider scale, and realize the people's ardent desire. But these are not all we should do. It is the duty of us Communists to root out every form of class exploitation and liberate the workers and peasants from the yoke of exploitation. It is our consistent aim to turn our country into a happy society without exploitation.

"The anti-Japanese partisan units should become a Marxist-Leninist army, regarding the accomplishment of the above-mentioned tasks as its main mission. Since we are fighting to realize such just aims, the partisans, though a small force at present, can enjoy the wholehearted support and aid of the people. Therefore, they will grow into an invincible revolutionary army in the not distant future.

"To be sure, there were the Volunteer Army, Independence Army and other forces allegedly fighting for Korea's national independence. But, in essence they were a sort of nationalist army representing the interests of landlords and capitalists. Consequently, the people did not support them and in the end they were crushed before the savage Japanese attack.

"But the anti-Japanese partisan units are fundamentally different from such nationalist armies not only in mission but in their composition.

"What, then, is the composition of the anti-Japanese partisan units?

"The best sons and daughters of the workers and peasants, who are ready to give everything—even

their very lives— to the struggle against the Japanese imperialists and their stooges, make up the ranks of our partisan units.

"They are people who have been deprived of their houses and lands by the Japanese imperialists and their lackeys who are bent on suppressing and plundering the people. They are people whose parents, wives, and children were massacred by the Japanese imperialists and their henchmen. They are people who were completely denied political rights. They are people burning with one ardent wish to drive the Japanese imperialist bandits from their country at any cost.

"The anti-Japanese partisan units are being led by the Communists who mastered the Marxist-Leninist strategy and tactics. No one, however, should take it that our military strength will grow by itself just because the anti-Japanese partisan units have a just aim to fight for, and because the ranks consist basically of the people of working-class and poor-peasant origin. Far from it!

"In order to strengthen the partisan forces, we shall have to wage many hard battles to wipe out the Japanese invaders and capture the enemy's weapons to arm ourselves better. At present we don't have to fight the enemy barehanded any more to capture the arms of the enemy. Compared with the days gone by, it is much easier for us now to wrest weapons in great quantities from the enemy. Now we are in possession of a considerable amount of weapons we have got at the price of blood shed by our comrades, as well as the bombs that we ourselves have made.

"With these weapons we must capture enemy's weapons in greater quantities to reinforce our fire power. Of course, it would be impossible for us to arm ourselves so well as the Japanese imperialists. Despite our insufficient arms, however, if every member of the partisan units is resolved to sacrifice

everything to the fight for crushing Japanese imperialism and winning the independence and liberation of the motherland, we will certainly be victorious in the fight against Japanese imperialism.

"While waging an armed struggle we must continually take in new members and strengthen our ranks. There are many young people in the partisan bases who are steeled and trained in the struggle against the enemy. We must enlist these young people and bring them up into excellent revolutionary fighters of the anti-Japanese partisan units. There are many miners and lumberjacks in the districts where our partisans are active. These people constitute an important source of manpower for our units. Among the workers those who are politically trained should be taken into the partisan units through revolutionary organizations. (At this point Comrade Kim Il Sung mentioned the fact that in Padoukou and Liudoukou—where our units were active—many mining workers had joined the partisan units. Then he suggested that the recruital among the miners in those districts should be continued in the future as well).

"Unless the partisans are firmly armed with communist ideology, we cannot win victory in the difficult, protracted struggle against Japanese imperialism. While intensifying military training there, ideological education should be strengthened among them.

"Ideological education is more important with the anti-Japanese partisans. For they are not only fighters. They must also be the propagandists who can educate and agitate the people and they must be organizers so that they can organize and mobilize the people. Needless to say, the military cadres should be good at military commandership. And they must be equally good at educating members politically. They should direct keen attention to this,

and to that end they must arm themselves with the Marxist-Leninist ideology..."

Then Comrade Kim Il Sung touched upon the basic problems related to the organization of the anti-Japanese partisan units. He said that the young anti-Japanese partisan units should be developed rapidly in number and in quality. They should be strengthened to become the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in the near future.

As he spoke, his eyes sparkled with unwavering faith and warm revolutionary passion.

"We must strengthen and extend our armed struggle against Japanese imperialism to cover the entire area of Manchuria. Then we must prepare our strength for the day when we can advance to the Korea-China border area around Mt. Baikdoo and even to the interior of Korea. Only then can we realize the liberation and independence of our homeland... If we are to achieve our task of winning the liberation and independence of our country, we must have a Marxist-Leninist Party. Particularly, our struggle does not end with achieving the country's liberation and independence. It has been our consistent aim to make our country a socialist one like the Soviet Union. How can we possibly accomplish this great task without a revolutionary headquarters?

"The Party! It is a guiding star in all our victories. Therefore, organizing a Marxist-Leninist Party is the most urgent and basic duty for the Korean Communists. But, contrary to what some factionists maintain, it is impossible, under the present circumstances, to organize the Party here and now. If anyone thinks that we can do that right away without any preparation and without ample revolutionary forces, he is indulging in an idle fancy of building a castle in the air. Therefore, we must build step by step, carefully but most energetically, the organiza-

tional and ideological foundation to prepare the way for establishing the Party."

On the question of organizing the Party, Comrade Kim Il Sung had the following to say:

"The most important factor in preparing for founding the Party lies in strengthening and expanding the ranks of Communists through the armed struggle of the anti-Japanese partisan units. The Communists tested and steeled in struggle can play the nuclear role at any place and at any time in making our revolution. If we rally the revolutionary masses around this core, whatever difficulties we may encounter, we can establish a Marxist-Leninist Party and carry out the complicated revolutionary task correctly.

"It is important for us, therefore, to expand and steel constantly our armed ranks in the course of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and train and temper the Communists in the course of the fight against the enemy.

"There are Party organizations of the Korean Communists in all localities throughout Manchuria where Koreans reside. These Party organizations should be strengthened and the political education of the Party members be intensified. Then these organizations should infiltrate deep into Korea to establish ties with the Communists in the homeland in order to expand our ranks.

"But today we should not be satisfied only with bringing up Communists through the anti-Japanese partisan ranks and Communist Party organizations. Adhering firmly to the line of the anti-Japanese united front, all the revolutionary forces within and without the country should be united with various anti-Japanese revolutionary organizations. In this way, these people should be at first imbued with intense anti-Japanese spirit to awaken their revolutionary consciousness. Then gradually the progres-

sive elements should be chosen to be sent to the partisan units or to be enlisted in the communist organizations. Then they should be brought up to be staunch Communists.

"In making preparations for the establishment of the Party we must wage an uncompromising struggle against all shades of unsound ideologies such as factionalism and opportunism, because it is also very important to protect the organizational and ideological purity. Never should we forget the bitter experience in which the Korean communist movement sustained immense harm because of the rabid factional strife among the factionists. Some of these unhealthy elements still remain in the revolutionary ranks attempting to disrupt the unity of the partisans under the pretext of wiping out members of 'Minsaingdan' (a Japanese espionage agency). Moreover, fostering various 'Left' or Right deviations they are attempting to wreck the ranks of Communists from within. Under no circumstances, therefore, should we compromise with them, but wage a strenuous struggle against them so that there can be no room for factionalism or any hostile ideology in the Party organization and in the revolutionary ranks.

"Every Communist should study Marxism-Leninism and grasp its basic principles. At the same time he must learn how to apply his knowledge of Marxism-Leninism to the revolutionary situation facing us. Without this, we can neither have a firm conviction in carrying out the difficult and complicated tasks of our revolution nor choose the right path to follow."

Thus Comrade Kim Il Sung already at that time foresaw the future of Korea's revolution, formulated the plan, and organized and led the struggle for the establishment of the Party.

He spoke of his ideal about building up a social-

ist-communist society after winning the independence of the homeland.

"How happy and worthwhile we shall feel when we build a society without oppression and exploitation in our land of beautiful mountains and clear rivers, and we exploit by ourselves our rich natural resources so that the people can lead a free and abundant life! This is our ultimate goal. And this is the very goal for which we are fighting and shedding blood."

At this point he paused briefly as if he were looking into the distant future. He was buried in deep thought. Then he continued:

"This is no empty dream. The ideas of the Communists are scientific. There is not the slightest doubt, therefore, that these ideas will be realized without fail."

As I listened to his words brimming with confidence, a bright future seemed to appear before me and I felt again a great joy and pride as a revolutionary.

On that night, too, we sat up until nearly daybreak.

I had to take leave of him in the morning. Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized again various aspects of the partisan struggle and handed me four rifles which we used to call "Dataigal." (They were of large calibre that gave out a terrific sound when fired.) He said that the sentries should use these guns.

I bade him goodbye and was about to leave. Suddenly he asked me to wait a while. He felt through all his pockets, and said to me.

"This is a little thing, but please accept it in memory of our meeting!" It was a cigarette holder made from amber. He gave it to me as a present. I was deeply moved and felt a lump in my throat.

After that I always carried the cigarette holder

with me through all the difficult campaigns. And whenever I faced some difficulty I took it out to recall my first meeting with Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Though it is a fancy cigarette holder, it has been my companion for nearly thirty years now, giving me strength and encouragement. (At present the precious cigarette holder is on display in the Museum of the Korean Revolution.)

And I bade farewell to Comrade Kim Il Sung and returned to the partisan base in Yenchi county. It was my unforgettable first meeting with him.

At that time he was a young man of 22. But our beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as a distinguished leader of the Korean revolution from the early days of the anti-Japanese partisan struggle foresaw the future of the Korean revolution from the viewpoint of Marxism-Leninism and elucidated the revolutionary line.

His leadership has been the banner of our struggle and the path along which he led us has always been that of victory and glory.

My first meeting with him lasted only two days, but those two days were more meaningful and precious to me than the several years spent at a Marxist-Leninist university. Keeping all his words deep in my heart, and feeling pride and honour to have such a wise leader, I have traversed the arduous path of struggle.

A Memorable Art Performance

By KIM OK SOON

It was in October 1933 that at the suggestion of Comrade Kim Il Sung a children's play troupe was organized in Yaoyingkou district, Wangching county.

Despite the claims of his busy life of guiding the partisan unit and the people at the base, Comrade Kim Il Sung found time personally to organize a children's play troupe of some 20 boys and girls of the partisan base for the purpose of developing mass cultural work to heighten the morale of the partisans and the people at the base areas and to inspire them with confidence in victory.

Though I had no talent or experience in that line, I was entrusted with the heavy responsibility of taking charge of the troupe.

I was much perplexed at first, but his personal kind and concrete guidance gave me self-confidence little by little.

Comrade Kim Il Sung often rode a white horse when he came to give us advice on the activities of the play troupe. He used to say:

"...You should always bear in mind that just

one verse can rouse tens of thousands of people and that our songs can strike terror into the hearts of the enemies when they are beyond the reach of our bayonets..."

He would personally write and compose songs for us, write dramas and even select the repertoire of our performance.

Among the songs he personally taught us was the famous song "Dansimjool" which expresses the idea that the Koreon revolution is bound to win victory if the broad masses of the people are mobilized on the basis of the worker-peasant alliance.

One evening, we were rehearsing a play near a campfire in front of the building used as the meeting hall, when he came out to us.

We were dancing while singing: "On the seashore on a moon-lit night..."

Having seen our rehearsal to the end, Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"...I think you will do well to practise a more cheerful and livelier song and dance. More children, 50 or 60, instead of a few, should take part in the dance and chorus to make the dance and song more stirring. The performance of the play troupe should, first of all, serve to encourage and educate the armymen and the people. Your songs and dances must fire the cambatants with a resolve to wipe out the enemy and inspire the people to work optimistically without vacillation and discouragement in whatever difficult situation and rouse them to defend valiantly the base from the 'big-scale mopping-up operation' of the enemy..."

Then he taught us the song and dance "Dansimjool." He always endeavcured to make the children good members of the Children's Corps and good players in the play troupe.

Unforgettable to this day was our performance

at the barracks of the partisan unit in celebration of a victorious battle fought by the partisans.

When the performance ended, Comrade Kim Il Sung invited all of us to a party arranged at the barracks where we were treated to nice dishes made of the food captured from the enemy. He now touched my red tie and now patted Ri Soon Geum on the back. Then he said:

"...Soon Geum, don't forget that you are a girl saved from the flames in which your father and mother were burnt to death by the enemy. You must avenge your parents at any cost.

"...Here are many orphans besides you, Soon Geum. Others among you have parents, but they are living a hard life, driven hither and thither by the Japanese. Who is to blame for the hard life of your parents who, unable to live in Korea, had to emigrate to Gando of Manchuria and experience such a misery here? All this is because of the Japanese imperialist robbers. That is why we are fighting with arms in our hands to crush the Japanese imperialists and liberate Korea. We are fighting at the cost of our blood so that you will never know shame and sorrow of a ruined people.

"...You are boys and girls who will carry forward the Korean revolution in the future. Therefore, be diligent in study and work, and devote yourselves more faithfully to the life in the Children's Corps and to the activities of the play troupe. This alone will hasten the day when you return to Korea and live a well-to-do life."

Saying this, he taught us how we should help the people in the daytime in rebuilding houses destroyed by the enemy's "punitive operations" or in farm work, and that we should give performance at night to heighten the morale of the people.

While educating us in revolutionary spirit, Comrade Kim Il Sung paid deep attention to mak-

ing the repertoire and contents of performance of more ideological and artistic value. Before every performance he would watch the rehearsal, give us concrete appraisals and showed us ways of correcting shortcomings, if any.

In compliance with his words, the members of the play troupe selected various forms and items of lofty ideological value which inspired optimism, according to their own abilities and tastes and carried on repeated rehearsals to raise the level of performance. As a result, we learned to recite poems fairly well, handle skilfully such musical instruments as a four-stringed fiddle and harmonica and perform Korean and mass dances adroitly.

Comrade Kim Il Sung not only personally brought up and developed the play troupe, but also ensured our work conditions in every way, getting us instruments and stage costumes before anything else even in the hard circumstances of the base area.

It was a few days before May Day of 1934. The partisans captured a few weapons and plenty of cloth in a battle which was planned and commanded personally by Comrade Kim Il Sung to solve the clothing question of the partisan unit and the people at the base area. With the captured cloth, he saw to it that clothes and dancing costumes were made first of all for us members of the play troupe.

Thanks to his deep solicitude and energetic guidance, our troupe could play a big role in inspiring the partisan uncles entrusted with the defense of the base area and also the people with revolutionary optimism, spirit of fortitude and confidence in victory.

According to the teaching of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we members of the play troupe went up

the mountains in the daytime, blowing trumpets, beating drums and flying red flags, to dig up edible grass-roots and pick strawberries, singing songs loudly all day long. Our cheerful songs, they told us, encouraged and reanimated people who, having lost their houses and families in the repeated large-scale "mopping-up operations" of the enemy, were heartbroken and filled with hatred for the enemy.

We presented the grass-roots to the people and took the strawberries to the army hospital. Then, at night we gave consolation performance at the hospital.

Comrade Kim Il Sung arranged for the play troupe a performance tour of the villages in the Yaoyingkou base so that we did not confine our performances to the barracks and hospital.

Everywhere we were welcomed by the people who showed great affection for us and our performances delighted and encouraged them.

Still to this day I have a vivid memory of the moving scene enacted during our performance at a village on the day when the enemy fell upon Yaoyingkou for their third large-scale "punitive operation." The "punitive troops" had suddenly descended on the base during the previous night and set fire to the village. The enemy caught the old folks who failed to escape and threw them into the burning houses, thrust suckling infants with bayonets and tossed them into fire, and perpetrated other hair-raising atrocities.

When the people returned to the village after the enemy was repulsed by the partisan unit and saw the horrible sight, they felt pangs of sorrow and gnashed their teeth with indignation. At the hideous sight we members of the play troupe, though still young, experienced a rush of indignation and resentment.

As always taught by Comrade Kim Il Sung, we consoled the people and helped them readjust the land and erect pillars for building houses. We plastered walls with clay.

In the evening there was a performance by our play troupe by the campfire. The people with their depressed looks silently watched the performance. Besides a chorus of 70 children and a group dance, we staged a play "Wolves" which we had prepared under the personal guidance of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

On the stage a scene is enacted in which a rogue in black "Haori"—Japanese robe—representing the Japanese soldiers of the "punitive unit," perpetrates atrocities, setting fire to the houses and massacring infants and old folks. It was followed by a gratifying scene in which partisan fighters representing the people, advance and wrathfully dispose of the knave with bayonets. This is followed by the celebration of victory by the overjoyed people who express their delight by dancing. The audience gave a storm of applause which echoed through the valley.

When I, acting as a partisan fighter, ran the scoundrel through with my bayonet mercilessly, bringing him down to the ground, I heard somebody whispering among the audience: "Look, how nicely the children perform the play, which they have prepared under the teaching of General Kim."

One old man with snow-white hair, unable to suppress his excitements, stepped forward and addressed the audience in a loud yet husky voice as follows:

"Fellow villagers, for the sake of our children, too, we must rebuild our houses and do farm work again, and drive out the Japanese robbers at all costs!"

At this, the people gave their approval by cheers

and rose to their feet in a determined manner.

The next day, the villagers were quite another people. They vigorously started to set up houses on the debris of the fire and set about farming more energetically than before.

Our play troupe trained under the care of Comrade Kim Il Sung inspired strength and confidence in victory into the partisan uncles and the people at the Yaoyingkou base and gained the warm affection of the people through its activities.

The reputation of the play troupe spread far and wide not only in eastern but also northern Manchuria. Even the "Chinese national salvation army" units operating in Ningan county asked Comrade Kim Il Sung many times to send the play troupe to them.

He dispatched our play troupe to the units of the "Chinese national salvation army" with a view to consolidating the friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Chinese peoples and strengthening the anti-Japanese united front.

Just before our departure, he received us in person and closely examined the outfit and preparations for the journey of each of us and gave us advice as follows:

"...The Japanese imperialists are frenziedly attempting to wreck, first of all, solidarity between the Korean and Chinese peoples to attain their aggressive end. They are at pains to estrange the peoples of our two countries and are plotting to set us against each other.

"If under these circumstances you make contributions to the strengthening of friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Chinese peoples with your songs and dances by visiting the 'national salvation army' units far in northern Manchuria, how greatly you will benefit the revolution and what a fatal blow you will deliver at the Japanese

imperialists! So, I hope you will do your utmost to attain great success in your present mission, cherishing the pride and honour of being members of the Children's Corps of Korea and overcoming all difficulties with determination."

We members of the play troupe set out on the performance tour, with a firm determination to follow his words, to uphold the honour of being members of Comrade Kim Il Sung's Children's Corps.

As we approached Machang, Ningan county where the national salvation army unit under the command of Tsai was stationed, we adjusted the columns and marched into the town in fine array, our steps timed to the "Partisan March," with a red flag flying at the head.

Men of the "Chinese national salvation army" and townsfolk came running out from alleys to welcome us.

Tsai's unit was quartered in a large clay-walled section in the centre of the town.

When we arrived in front of the clay-wall of the town, the gate was flung open and "Chinese national salvation army" men ran out in crowds.

They welcomed us, taking us by the hand, crying loudly: "The play troupe has arrived sent by General Kim Il Sung from eastern Manchuria!"

Even Commander Tsai himself ran out and embraced us. He patted us on the head, expressing his welcome and praising us for our long journey.

"Is Commander Kim well?" he said.

"Thanks a lot for coming all the way down here."

The thought that all the hospitality with which we were received was due to the reputation and prestige of Comrade Kim Il Sung, further strengthened my determination to carry out successfully the task entrusted by him without fail.

We rested for two days, and on the evening of the third day we gave our first performance.

Commander Tsai invited 150 persons to our performance, including the personnel of his headquarters and commanding officers of the unit.

The inside of the barracks, brilliantly illuminated with many candles, was filled with army officers.

Before the performance, Comrade Choi Bong Son, leader of the play troupe, made a speech.

When he conveyed in fluent Chinese Comrade Kim Il Sung's greetings to men and officers of the "Chinese national salvation army," there arose prolonged stormy applause.

Our performance started with a chorus.

Our song containing a passionate appeal to the Chinese people to take up arms and fight shoulder to shoulder with the Korean people to annihilate the Japanese imperialists evoked warm applause and cheers from the audience.

Though not sung very well, our song was full of passion appealing to the "Chinese national salvation army" soldiers, a song filled with a sense of justice and confidence in victory. It was a song of victory indicating a brilliant future.

Our song was encored again and again.

When the "Song of Anti-Japanese Fighters" reached its climax, officers were so excited that they jumped onto the stage to embrace and cheer us.

Every time a song was finished they plied us with Chinese cakes, meat dumpling and other refreshments which had been placed on the table in the waiting room.

Our performance went over to dance. When we began dancing the Chinese mass dance Yangko, the officers ran up to the stage to take part in our dance or began to dance on the floor.

Our performance completely captivated the audience and commanded ever increasing applause

and cheers as it proceeded.

It was when we sang and danced "Dansimjool" which Comrade Kim Il Sung had taught and guided us at the rehearsal before our departure, and which had rich contents representing the solidarity of the Korean and Chinese peoples, that officers ran up onto the stage from their seats, and danced holding the lines symbolizing the anti-Japanese fighters, shouting loudly: "Long live the friendship and solidarity between Korea and China!" In response to them all the officers filling the hall unanimously followed suit at the top of their voice.

Our first performance was a great success, it ended amidst excitement and enthusiasm.

Commander Tsai was so much pleased that he asked us to stay and continue the performance at least for two months. He was confident that the performance of our play troupe would exert great ideological influence on his men who were at a low level of awakening.

From the next day we made a 15-day tour of performances round the neighbouring villages where the Tsai's army was stationed.

Already it was mid-September and the time of our departure was due. Commander Tsai asked us to put off our departure at least another 10 days.

And so, we left the place only towards the end of September.

On the day of our departure, Commander Tsai presented us with scores of pistols and rifles together with a large quantity of ammunition. He also gave each of us new clothes, and then tens of sacks of flour and pork loaded on a cart. His whole unit saw us off.

On our way back, we visited the unit under the command of Chou Pao-chung, and received a hearty welcome there, too.

"Comrade Kim Il Sung is a great Communist,"

said Comrade Chou Pao-chung in an excited voice after seeing our performance. "He is a prominent military strategist as well as a distinguished politician. Your performance is proof of it."

Towards the end of October we set out on our journey home after successful performances in northern Manchuria, feeling a sense of boundless pride in the fact that we were members of the play troupe brought up by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Even now, whenever I see children performing songs and dances in a lovely manner at the Grand Theatre or at any other theatres or listen to the vigorous songs of the members of the Young Pioneers over the radio or in the streets, I feel anew the excitement I experienced nearly 30 years ago.

Just as in the early days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle when he directed so much solicitude to our children's play troupe, today, too, Comrade Kim Il Sung shows great concern for the happy recreation of children, providing them with various kinds of musical instruments, for the enhancement of the level of their culture and for their song and dance performances. When I think of this, I feel deeply that the children's performances of today are unimaginable apart from the play troupe of the past which consisted of members of the Children's Corps.

Today, the beautiful, happy life which we desired and wove into our songs so earnestly has been brought into full bloom in our land by Comrade Kim Il Sung, and under his warm, fatherly care our children are growing up brightly, vigorously and cheerfully, singing and dancing to their hearts' content. How worthy and happy their life is!

May You Live Long!

By CHOI IL HWA

On the morning of the August 15 liberation anniversary, 1961, two young men called at my house and said:

"The Premier will probably call at your home before this noon, grandmother."

At this, I was quite surprised and thought:

"The Premier is coming to my house when he is so busy with state affairs!"

I was so deeply grateful for his kindness that I did not know what to do. I, together with my grandchildren, hastened to put things in order.

But the Premier was already crossing the threshold. He took me by the hand and said: "How do you do, mother?"

I was so upset that I could hardly greet him in a proper manner.

After entering the room, he made his wife and two children pay their respects to me politely, and then asked all my family to sit down. He inquired about the living conditions and health of my family.

"How are you getting along after coming back

to Korea?" he asked. "Where are your sons working?"

As he asked these questions, he was as kind as to his own family. At first our family felt awkward and stiff in his presence, but soon we felt at ease and told him about our domestic affairs, big and small, in detail without hesitation, as if talking to a dear relative whom we had met after a long separation.

"Thanks to you Premier, I am living happily in such a nice house which looks out over the beautiful Daidong River," I told him. "All my sons are working and my grandchildren are attending school. I do not know anything more gratifying than this."

When I expressed my gratitude to him in this way, he said with a smile of satisfaction:

"I am very glad to hear that."

Then, he went over to the window and looked out over the Daidong River.

"What a fine view!" he said, and then, turning to me, asked:

"Can that cottage of yours still be standing, the cottage where you took care of me when I was ill that time?"

When I replied that the cottage had probably been burnt down because immediately after his stay in our place there was a "punitive operation," he stood lost in thought for a while, and then said:

"The view of the mountain behind the cottage and the stream in front were really fine... And the water of the nearby spring was very sweet to drink, wasn't it?"

He went to the well heated part of the room (hypocaust) and sat down. Then he continued:

"At that time too, you sat me down in the warmest place of the floor-heated room like this, and gave me gruel with honey water, didn't you?

And it was the honey water that saved my life!"

And he recalled with deep emotions that the bean-paste soup was delicious and that the coarse bean curd had special flavour.

How I regret and feel ashamed now that I was so poor at that time that I could not take care of him properly and could not treat him to any good diet. Yet, he talked about things of those days in words of gratitude which I did not deserve. Overwhelmed with gratitude I could not find proper words to reply.

* * *

It was just 29 years ago. My family left our native village, Samjang sub-county, Moosan county, in North Hamgyung Province, in search of a living. After roaming about northern Gando and Ningan, we went deep into the mountains 12 kilometres away from the village of Taweitzu which was situated at the foot of Laoyehling Mountain. We built a cottage and settled down there.

It was an out-of-the-way place, and had no name or number to mark it. It was located in thick forests gloomy even in the daytime. Around our low one-room cottage, we planted little pine-trees so that it might not be seen even from a short distance. When we went down to work the field which was 8 kilometres away from our cottage, we took care not to leave traces. In this way, we lived completely hidden away from the outer world.

Living such a solitary life in the mountains to evade oppression by the Japanese imperialists, land owners and capitalists, we very much missed community life. But our minds were peaceful at least, for we could grow crops, though on fire fields, without being exploited and there was no scoundrel to annoy us.

Opposite our cottage across the streamlet with its stepping stones there was another cottage hidden away from the outside, where the family of my brother-in-law lived.

Thus, ours were the only two houses to be found in the dark woods as murky as a den of beasts. Not a soul could be seen approaching the place for a whole year, and for two years nobody ever knew that we were living there.

Then, one day we were visited by the most honourable guests.

As I remember, it was towards the end of 1934, the second year of our habitation there in the mountain, that in the dead of night someone knocked at the door.

Having pounded millet in a foot-mortar all day long and ground bean for bean curd in the evening, I had just fallen asleep, when I heard the sound and woke up in alarm. While all the family were lying with bated breath, my father-in-law, Jo Taik Joo, who had been sleeping nearest the door, opened it.

"We are anti-Japanese partisans," said one of the visitors, "don't be afraid, please."

Saying that the matter was urgent, they went on talking outside, without coming into the house.

They said that they had heard from an old Korean in the village of Shipienlintzu which was some 28 kilometres off, that there was a house of Koreans hidden away in a fold of Laoyehling Mountain. They had searched for our house all over the place all day long, but in vain.

When it grew dark, they climbed onto the mountain top and looked around in the hope of finding a light. And they found the faint light coming from our cottage, and came to us.

"Our political commissar is ill," they said. "He is now lying a little down the slope over there. May

we bring him here in your home to stay for a time?"

They told us why they had taken so much pains to find and come to our home.

Only when we heard that they were partisans, did we feel relieved, and we all looked out through the door. Just outside the door, two young soldiers were standing in worn-out military uniforms with pieces of white cloth thrown over them.

My father-in-law was greatly astonished when he learned that the sick political commissar of the partisan unit was none other than General Kim Il Sung.

"What!" he exclaimed. "Why didn't you bring him in right away? You really are tactless people!"

Reproaching the partisans in this way, he urged my husband and son, Yung Sun, to go along with the partisans to help bring General Kim Il Sung, giving them a push in the back.

Then, turning to me, he told me to hurry and make a fire to heat the room and boil water in one pot and prepare gruel in the other.

After my husband and son hurried away together with the partisans, I tidied up the room a bit, made a fire and put millet in a cooking pot to make gruel, holding my excitement in check.

My father-in-law had probably heard about General Kim Il Sung before. He said:

"General Kim Il Sung is a great commander who leads the Korean army units in eastern Manchuria, delivering crushing blows at the Japanese."

Hearing this, I was deeply stirred. I thought it would have been hardly possible for people as humble as we to meet a personage like him if nothing of that sort had happened to him. My thoughts running along such a line, I was busied about the kitchen.

Before long the partisans entered our cottage, carrying a young person on the back. The night was

dark, with a snowstorm howling. Worse still, the place was trackless, thick with bushes and small pine-trees, which rendered it impossible to carry a stretcher. So, the partisans carried him on their backs by turns the long distance of 8 kilometres, digging their way through the breast-deep snow. As soon as they arrived, we laid him by the fireside.

His young face impressed one at first sight, but it bore marks of serious illness. He was unconscious and lay groaning.

My heart ached and I was more upset knowing that he who was engaged in a great cause, having tens of thousands of enemy troops at his mercy, crossing mountains with preternatural swiftness, was now lying unconscious.

From his experience with diseases, my father-in-law said that we had to make the General perspire because he had undoubtedly caught the chills while going through a hard life in the severe frost. He told me to hurry and bring hot water and the honey which we had gathered in the mountain.

After we had served a cup of hot water with honey to him we took off his overcoat and shoes, laid him in front of the fireside and covered him with all the quilts we had.

I blush now to think of the ragged quilts with which we then covered him without hesitation. But at that time, we were so filled with anxiety that we did not care about such a thing.

My father-in-law began to massage his limbs, saying, "Massage and perspiration will cure the chills."

Sitting at the foot of the bed, I too massaged him on the ankles, earnestly hoping that he might get well as soon as possible.

The room was filled with partisan fighters, but it was too narrow to admit all. So, some remained outside in the raging snowstorm, watching. They

were very anxious, and even some of them were wiping tears from their eyes. The room was heavy with anxiety and worry, for General Kim Il Sung so precious for all the Korean people was lying unconscious.

"It's not good to crowd here and disturb the patient," my father-in-law said to the partisans, massaging his limbs in a sweat. "Don't worry. All of you, go over to the next cottage and take a rest."

At his suggestion, the partisans went reluctantly across the brook to the cottage of my brother-in-law, and only two bodyguards remained with our family.

When it became quiet in the room, I felt heavier at heart and got more nervous with anxiety.

About an hour later, my father-in-law touched his forehead with his hand and said in a relieved voice: "He is perspiring." Then he asked me to fetch some gruel with honey.

I hurried out to the kitchen and strained millet gruel through a strainer and brought a bowl of it mixed with honey.

We raised him up a little to take the gruel. After that, we massaged him for some time. A faint flush overspread his face and he fell asleep.

"Good," said my father-in-law heaving a deep sigh of relief, "Now we've beaten off the disease." He told me to stop massaging and leave him alone to sleep.

Our family kept anxiously watching him as he slept. The partisans talked to us in a whisper about him.

Listening to them, I was filled with the feeling, though not knowing exactly the reason, that the day would be expedited for the Korean people to enjoy freedom and live in comfort only when the great young person recovered. So, I sat by his side anxiously watching every expression and movement of muscle on his face and wiping sweat from his brow.

When day began to break, he opened his eyes with a deep breath. We were so glad that we all drew nearer to him and asked in unison: "How do you feel?"

"I feel quite all right now, as if I could fly," he said in a resonant voice. "It's only thanks to this kind family that I have recovered." He paid his compliments to our family again and again.

We were so much moved that we did not know what to say in reply.

At his request, we raised him up and fixed up the place so that he could sit leaning against quilts and pillows. He looked round at us, and earnestly asked us to go to sleep. He said: "You couldn't sleep all the night... Now, please go to sleep."

One of the guards ran to the next cottage with this glad news.

Presently the partisans came rushing in.

Still vivid before my eyes is the picture of the partisan members who, after a long sleepless night spent worrying about his health, were rejoicing to see him sitting.

"Comrade political commissar!" said all of them but could speak no more and dropped their heads in tears.

"Well, I have recovered... Don't worry," he said with a smile, and patted one of the young partisans in front of him. The partisan fighters were so pleased. Why should they not be glad to see the General whom they looked upon as the beacon of the Korean revolution recovering from a serious disease!

They could pull through all the difficulties only by relying on him even when they, only a few in number, broke through the encirclement of the enemies, braving the biting cold of northern Manchuria .

They were smiling, but with emotion choking them they could not utter a word.

Having affectionately looked round at the partisans, he said: "Now don't worry about me, but say something... I've caused you much anxiety, haven't I?"

Cheered by his broad smile, their faces brightened.

"Frankly speaking now, Comrade political commissar," a young partisan said with a bright smile, "We were at an utter loss when we were surrounded by the enemy and you were unconscious."

The partisans told how they had found a way out of the jaws of death by the help of an old Korean at the critical moment when they found themselves in a tight corner with their sick, unconscious leader. Returning from an expedition to northern Manchuria (the first expedition to northern Manchuria), he had the main body of his unit start first and he himself set out later with a few partisans.

They had to force their way through breast-deep snow, and the enemy, outnumbering the unit tens of times, came in pursuit. Everyday they had to fight ten or more hard battles against the overpowering enemy. Marching through the deep snow, the partisans were tired out and, to make matters worse, they ran out of provisions.

I could well imagine how hard it must have been to go through the deep snow in the thick forests fighting with the enemies without eating! The partisans recalled that it was hard for them to move even a step forward.

Even in these circumstances, they continued, Comrade Kim Il Sung showed concern for the partisans. Even if some food was obtained by chance, he would not take it but offered it to his men, and every day he helped tired partisan members in the marching ranks. So, he became more exhausted than anybody else. To add to this, he spent days and nights

in the terrific cold of northern Manchuria, and at last he took the chills.

They told him in detail about how they, 17 young partisans (all of them around 17 or 18 years of age except the company commander), made their way toward Laoyehling Mountain for more than ten days, carrying the sick political commissar on a stretcher and fighting off the enemy's "punitive troops" following them.

"When we arrived at a dormitory of lumberjacks in Shipienlintzu of Huangchouling at the foot of Laoyehling Mountain we were attacked by the enemy not only in the rear, but in front and on our flanks," said one of the partisan members.

Surrounded on all sides and unable to find a way out, the partisan members entered the lumbermen's dormitory and discussed how to get out of the danger. But discussions could get them nowhere. They could find no way out.

But for the political commissar, they might have broken through the enemy's encirclement by making a desperate charge, but that was impossible because they had to secure the safety of the political commissar who was ill and lying unconscious.

Comrade Kim Il Sung had always repelled the enemies by singular tactics. But he was now unable to give instructions. The partisan members were truly in a plight.

Looking anxiously into his face which was flushing with fever, a young partisan, Taik Man, could not restrain himself and burst into tears, they said. Even the company commander could not make him stop crying. There was an old man in Chinese clothes in the room, sitting besides them listening to their talk. He was a Korean, who remained at the place to watch over the dormitory. He asked why the young man was crying.

"We are members of the eastern Manchuria par-

tisan unit," one of the partisans said to him. "We've got to save our political commissar, but we are at the end of our tether."

On hearing this, the old man asked: "Who is the political commissar?" When he learned that the political commissar was General Kim Il Sung himself, he hurried to his side and looked into his face closely, and asked once again: "Is he really General Kim Il Sung?"

One of the partisan members went on to say:

"And then, the old man spoke in fluent Korean, 'I am also a Korean. Old as I am, I will not spare even my life if it is for him.' "

The old man confided to them, the partisan member went on, that he had been living there in seclusion avoiding the Japanese, concealing his Korean nationality, speaking only Chinese and living in accordance with Chinese customs. (His son, Kim Hai San, who was a member of the Ningan Self-Defence Corps, was killed in action.)

"I will do my best, though I am not quite certain of the result," said the old man Kim.

And then he suggested they should use the owner of the lumber camp whom he was expecting to come soon from Ningan by sleigh, in which they could ride to get out of the danger.

Now, the company commander opened his mouth for the first time:

"The old man said: 'The owner is one of the most influential persons in Ningan, and so if he uses his influence for you, even the punitive troops would not be able to act recklessly against you. When the sleighs turn up, you must tie him up fast and make him promise to do what you tell him. And remember to tie me up under his very eyes, so that no trouble may arise to me afterwards.' Yet, we could not reply to the suggestion of the old man at once. Uncertain what would be the outcome, we could not readily

take a definite decision. For it would be the final showdown on which we would be staking our life."

The company commander then said that "after deep thought he cautiously shook the political commissar to wake him up, and asked what to do.

"General Kim Il Sung," they said, "barely managed to gather his weak senses, listened to the account of how things stood, told them, 'I leave everything to you!' and, with these words, he again fell into unconsciousness."

The partisans were still hesitant and could not make up their minds. Meanwhile, time flowed fast and soon day began to dawn. It was clear that as soon as day broke the enemy would fall upon the dormitory from all sides.

As the partisans were still in suspense, not knowing what to do, five sleighs ran into the yard one after another, as had been predicted by old man Kim.

There was no time to lose. The partisans rushed out and tied up both the owner of the lumber camp and old man Kim. Then, they pressed the owner for a promise to comply with their request.

The owner, seeing that the case was one of life and death for him, promised against his will to do what they asked.

One of the young partisans, mimicking the owner of the lumber camp, said:

"All of a tremble, the owner said, 'All right, sir. I'll ride the first sleigh and clear the road by shouting. So, you follow me on other sleighs, please.'"

The company commander and a partisan, both wearing Chinese clothes over their military uniforms, took their seats on the first sleigh with the owner between them, poking their pistols into the ribs of the owner from both sides, whose hands were tied up under his outer garment. On the second sleigh rode the partisans in work clothes of lumberjacks, fully prepared for fighting in case of emerg-

ency. And on the third sleigh, they said, was General Kim Il Sung covered with a quilt.

The fourth and fifth sleighs carried other partisan fighters, who were on the alert to take the General to the prearranged spot if anything should happen.

Their thought was that if the plan worked smoothly that would be a good luck for them, but when things went amiss, the company commander and some of the partisans would fight off the enemy with their very lives and, in the meantime, other partisans would take the General to a safe place.

The partisans triumphantly related the story of how the five sleighs after thus making preparations for fighting darted back along the road like an arrow towards Ningan.

Riding on the sleighs with guns concealed under their work clothes, the partisans were so tense that they felt their hearts contracting.

If the owner of the lumber camp made a slip of the tongue or made any suspicious signs towards the soldiers of the "punitive troops," the game would be up.

If there had been nobody besides themselves, the partisans could have died without regrets after giving a good thrashing to the "punitive troops." But should a skirmish take place, the personal safety of Comrade Kim Il Sung could have possibly been threatened.

One of the partisans said, waving his hand in excitement:

"Our hands which were holding the guns trembled, and we 17 partisans concentrated our attention on every movement of the owner, straining all our nerves. Before long, men of the 'punitive troops' came into view huddling together around a campfire.

" 'What are these sleighs?' shouted the sentry. 'Hold on!' "The company commander made a sign with his head toward the owner and gave a thrust

into the latter's ribs with his pistol. We all held our breath in spite of ourselves and gripped our pistols tightly.

"'Lumbermen are sick, so we're in a hurry to take them to the hospital, as you see!' shouted back the owner and the sleigh drove past the guard post in a flash. The following sleighs, too, darted past the guard post without stopping."

The second guard post, too, they passed without difficulty in the same way. Now, the partisans felt somewhat relieved, he told.

The youngest partisan now took up the subject:

"But when we came to the last guard post and the owner of the lumber camp shouted, the sentry came out onto the road and cried: 'Pull up your sleighs, I'll search!'

"Our hearts began to pound. The owner was upset and faltered in speaking. The issue hung by a hair. Seeing that the owner was stammering out his words, the company commander gave a hard thrust into the ribs of the owner with his pistol.

"Only then the owner recovered his spirit, it seemed, and shouted back loudly: 'What kind of search are you talking about, eh? Don't you see the patients are seriously ill? Hey, driver, go ahead at full gallop!' And the sleigh dashed ahead like an arrow. The other sleighs also tore past the guard post.

"The sentry, taken aback, couldn't even manage to step aside but just stood there and was splashed with snow by the running sleighs."

The youngest partisan recounted all this, standing up and making a demonstration of how the company commander poked his pistol into the owner's ribs.

They said it was only after they had slipped through the last barrier that they found themselves

bathed in sweat in spite of the severe frost of the winter day.

* * *

As I listened to the story, my heart pounded and I was in breathless suspense.

What a critical moment!

If the owner of the lumber camp had shown a suspicious attitude or if the sentry had been more inquisitive, there would have certainly been a big fight!

This thought made us break into a cold sweat.

My father-in-law drew a deep breath and turned his eyes once again towards the General. He said:

"Indeed, you are protected by Heaven..."

The partisans continued their story.

After successfully slipping through the guard posts, the sleighs drove along for some distance. Then, the first sleigh continued its way towards Ningan, and the others struck off onto a byway.

A little way farther, the company commander and other partisan got off the first sleigh and came into the valley where we were living.

Having heard the story through, the General said over again that the old man at the dormitory of the Shipienlintzu lumber camp was really a kind man.

His words brought me to think that who, if he was a Korean, could be reluctant to sacrifice his own life if it was for the sake of General Kim Il Sung in whom the entire Korean people put as much faith as in the sun!

This thought made me feel a still stronger sense of responsibility for the recovery of his health. "Shouldn't I nurse him with greater care so that he might recover as soon as possible?" I said to myself.

Soon it grew quite light. To make gruel for the

General, who was a little better and had sat up, as tasty as possible, I pounded millet in the foot-mortar, washed it in clear water at the spring, and prepared breakfast.

From that day, the General refused to stay in sickbed. But he was still very emaciated and his face was pale. Now he should be served with good food to enable him to regain his strength quickly. But what nutritious food was there at our cottage which was located in deep mountains hidden away from the outer world! Because we could not even keep chickens, dogs or other animals for fear of our discovery by the enemy, there was not a single egg, to say nothing of meat, to treat the General to.

Though it was my earnest desire to go as far as hundreds of *ri* to get meat for him, that was impossible because it might lead to the exposure of the whereabouts of the General to the "punitive troops" and bring about a disastrous consequence.

I worried each time I prepared the meal for him, and I was so ashamed that I could not raise my face when I set the food before him. At best, his meal was a compound of barley and millet, which was served to him together with wild-vegetable soup and coarse bean curd. We had enough beans, and if I could make bean curd for him while he was convalescing, it would have sharpened his appetite. But unable to get brine, I could not even make bean curd, and so had no choice but to serve him only with coarse bean curd.

Seeing that I could not raise my face whenever I set a meal before him, he would compliment it, saying: "The wild-vegetable soup is tasty and the sauce is good. And the bean curd is especially nice."

He always ate the meal with relish though it was a meagre one. He used to share the dinner table with the partisans and never ate before they took up their spoons. If there was bean curd or some other

speciality he would push the dish towards the partisans.

"I am afraid we shall eat up all your family's provision supply for the year, when you are short of food," he said with a look of concern.

"Don't worry," I replied. "We have harvested enough grain though it is coarse grain."

But this did not seem to put his mind at rest.

His health recovered quickly. On the fourth day after his arrival, he could read books and talk with the partisans. One week after he could even go to the house of my brother-in-law across the brook where the partisans were billeted, to give guidance in their studies. And then, after that, he went up on the mountain ridges around to have a look at the topographical features.

One day, after he had spent about fifteen days in this way, he suddenly said he had to leave.

"How can you go through the deep snow when you have still not regained your strength?" said my father-in-law, trying to dissuade him from leaving. But the General insisted that he had to go. Of course, fifteen days were a short period, but those were days which I could not forget all my life.

The partisans, like my own sons or younger brothers, helped me in my household chores. Without even taking a rest from the first to the last day before they departed, they gathered firewood for me in the mountains, drew water and pounded grains in the foot-mortar in the daytime. Indeed, I regarded them as my own family.

The night before they left I pounded millet and barley for their field rations. There was a heavy snowfall that night.

Morning came and it was time for departure. Before setting off at the rear of the partisans' files, he shook hands with us one by one, and then said to my father-in-law:

"We young sons of Korea are to blame that you should live a joyless life here, hidden away from the outer world even in a foreign country where you have come in search of a living. But trust us and wait. The day will certainly come when we Koreans, men and women, old and young, will be able to live in peace in our liberated land, free from worry and anxiety."

He advised us over and over again to move closer to the Luotzukou region because it was probable that the enemy would step up "punitive operations" in the spring. Then he bade us farewell.

Yung Sun, my eldest son, accompanied him as far as Palinkou in Wangching county acting as a guide for him. When Yung Sun returned, he told us that the General had said when parting:

"We will go back to our partisan unit and continue to fight until we liberate Korea. Then, we will meet again in the free land of Korea."

For some time after his departure, we felt as if he was still beside us and, especially in the night, we still seemed to hear the partisan members singing and see them dancing. We all felt lonely and our house seemed empty.

After his departure all of our family as if by agreement sat down by the fireside where he had been lying, and remained silent, feeling something was missing.

Sure enough, from the February of the next year, as he had predicted when parting, the enemy's "punitive troops" crept into the mountains where we were living. They prowled about all over the mountains, firing blank shots at random.

As advised by the General, one night our family left the place and moved to Taipingkou in Luotzukou where we settled in a farm hut belonging to a Chinese landlord.

I think it was June of the year, for weeding was at its height in the fields. One day, a large troop of our soldiers came to Taipingkou and the villagers welcomed them. Our army, they said, was coming back after winning a great victory in the Laoheishan battle. Our family, too, cheered the partisan fighters on the highway along which they were passing.

Then, I saw in the middle of the marching column a man of great stature. My heart skipped a beat. There was no doubt. It was he, General Kim Il Sung, who had stayed with us while recovering from illness the previous winter!

I was about to rush towards him in spite of myself, when my father-in-law held me back, sensing what I was going to do.

"Don't stop him. He is engaged in a great work," he said.

In the depths of my heart I earnestly wished to meet him, but I could not do so. While women of the village were talking about him, I did not say a word about the fact that he had been in our home. I could not do so because it might have given an impression that I was boasting.

My father-in-law, while walking down the road next day, came upon two young partisans who had stayed at our home the previous winter. Then, later that day, while I was out weeding the fields in the daytime, the General personally called at our house together with a few partisans. He even brought us some meat. I learned later. He called on my father-in-law and chatted with him for a long time. That day, my younger brother-in-law was ill in bed. Seeing him lying in bed, the General inquired about him and, when leaving, he pushed some money under his pillow.

When I heard this upon returning from the fields, I was moved beyond description. How could such a

great man be so kind, giving his attention even to small things!

Next day, when all of our family were sitting together and talking with great enthusiasm about the General, two partisans came to our house quite unexpectedly, leading a white horse with them.

"This horse is part of our booty in the Laoheishan battle," the partisans said. "Comrade political commissar has sent it to you as a gift. He asked us to tell you that though the horse is a bit lean, you could feed it into a good horse to use it in grinding grains and plowing the fields, thereby doing good farming."

On hearing them say this, our family were so deeply moved that we just stood speechless.

Taking the reins of the horse, my father-in-law was trembling with excitement. How glad he was that his long-cherished dream of owning a draft animal which could help him in farming had come true thanks to the General!

As told by the General, we fed it well and used it in farming. But we were afraid that the horse might catch the attention of the enemy. So, the next year we sold it and bought a big ox, instead. For in those days the enemy used to commandeer any good horse for military use as soon as they found one.

Later, we moved to northern Manchuria to escape the enemy's "punitive operations," but went through hardships being unable to get jobs there. In those days our family would have probably starved to death had we not had that ox. When we found ourselves in a tight situation in which we even could not get a piece of land to tenant, the ox was the only means for us to earn a living. My husband and eldest daughter gathered bush clover in the valley of Amahutzu outside Nanhutou and the ox carried it to the market for sale. In this way relying on the ox, we could keep body and soul together for several

years, though on watery gruel.

"We owe our existence to General Kim Il Sung," was the grateful thought which always remained with us. But we realized we must keep this precious secret to ourselves.

In April 1960 when I made a trip to Korea, my homeland, my heart was brimming with emotions at the thought that I was going to have the honour of meeting Comrade Kim Il Sung again in my liberated country.

It was on the eve of May Day, 1960.

Standing on the soil of my dear fatherland and watching the streets of Pyongyang lined with multistory buildings, I recalled the words uttered by him over 20 years ago when he left our house.

"Just as he said, we have come to enjoy as happy a life as others in this sunny land of ours!" I said to myself.

The day after my arrival in my country, I was granted the honour of meeting him.

I had been thinking that when I met him I would tell him all about so many things that had happened to our family during these 20 years. But when at last I came to see him face to face, I stopped at a loss for words.

He received me as he would his own mother, he took me by the hand and led me to a seat. Then, he said: "What hardships you must have undergone since then!" But I was unable to say a word, I only sat looking into his face, his kind, generous face, for a long time.

As I was gazing at him, his smiling face grew dimmer. Tears were running down my cheeks in spite of myself.

"Why should you shed tears, mother, on this happy day!" he said.

Only when he said this, I realized that I was in tears. I managed to mumble:

"It's because I am recalling the day when you Comrade Premier parted with us," I said. "You told us at that time that the sunny day would surely come when we could meet each other with a light heart. And here I am, having the honour of seeing you again in our homeland. I am so happy that I, an old woman, am shedding tears of joy."

At this, he grasped my hand still more firmly.

So full of emotions, I could not remember all those things which I had been thinking of telling him without reserve when I met him.

Since our family's return to our dear homeland, I have had the honour of meeting him on many occasions.

Nevertheless, I was hesitant to present him with the souvenir which I had been keeping deep in my bosom for him.

"How can I dare offer him such a worthless thing in the presence of others?" I would say to myself.

It was on April 15, 1961, his birthday, that I presented it to him. I, together with all his family, took part in the Premier's birthday celebration. I was treated like one of his own family. I took out the fountain pen which I had kept in my bosom and offered it to him, saying:

"Dear Premier, the white horse which you had captured in the Laoheishan battle and given us as a gift has changed into this fountain pen. As you told us, we fed it well and used it in our farm work. Then, we sold it and bought an ox, for we feared that the horse might catch the eye of the enemy. And after that too, we changed oxen many times. If it had not been for the ox, our family would never have been able to earn a living and would have died of hunger. All our family relied on the ox for a living. After liberation, we brought it in the co-operative (later, the people's commune). On our departure

for home this time we were compensated for the ox and bought this fountain pen. I have brought it as a present to you, for I wanted you to live long, as long as ten thousand years. (The Korean word for fountain pen means a 'pen which lasts ten thousand years'). Please, accept it."

Taking the fountain pen in his hand, he said with deep emotions: "So, that horse we captured in the Laoheishan battle has been turned into this fountain pen!"

So saying, he showed the fountain pen to his family with delight. Then, he grasped my hand tightly once again and said: "Thank you, mother!"

When the Premier called at my house on August 15, 1961, and stayed for over one hour and a half, talking about old times, all those things of the past came back to my mind just as they were things of the day before.

The very General whom I nursed when he was ill and staying at our cottage was now sitting in my home smiling genially and looking out on the magnificent streets of Pyongyang through the window with my grandchildren who were fussing and frolicking about with joy. Gazing at him while he was looking out of the window, I wished again from the bottom of my heart that he might live long.

I repeated over and over again in the depths of my mind:

"I hope you may live ten thousand years for the sake of building socialism and communism in our country and providing the rising generation with a more joyful and free earthly paradise!"

Enjoying Deep Affection

By CHOI GWANG

The winter of 1934 saw the Japanese imperialists becoming more desperate in their wild attempt. They launched what they called "winter punitive operation," attacking the Yaoyingkou partisan base every day.

The Young Volunteers fought side by side with the partisans, driving back the attacking enemy troops. (I was then platoon leader of the Young Volunteers and secretary of the Young Communist League branch in the company). The local people, too, helped us in every way, risking their lives. The entire inhabitants in Yaoyingkou, one in body and spirit with the partisans, valiantly repulsed the Japanese imperialist "punitive troops," defending the political power they had won. They did not fall back even a step, demonstrating the united, invincible might.

However, more than once we encountered difficulties. Above all, we were short of arms and ammunition; provisions began to run out in the base area, and the inhabitants were in poor clothes and footwear.

In the meantime the Japanese imperialists besieged the base area, and were threatening to starve

the inhabitants to death.

Every day fires caused by the enemy attacks could be seen in the village of Yaoyingkou. The villagers would erect makeshift houses on the ruins, only to see them burned down again by the enemy. This was repeated so many times. It was indeed heart-breaking to see the inhabitants, clenching their teeth, going to the mountain for timber the moment the enemy was driven back, to see them building hovels on the sooty cornerstone.

The winter was unusually cold that year. The inhabitants were in thin tattered clothes, but this notwithstanding, they endured the difficulty, tightening their belts and braving the biting cold. Around this time good tidings came to the inhabitants—Comrade Kim Il Sung had come to Yaoyingkou from the north Manchurian expedition. The news soon spread all over the base area, cheering up the people.

"General Kim Il Sung has come to Yaoyingkou!" "The Japanese will be given a good licking!" said the people with great joy. Fresh strength surged in our hearts. One day I had the honour of being received by Comrade Kim Il Sung. I had once seen him from some distance when he was addressing a public meeting in Taipingkou some six months before. So my heart beat fast when I learned that he wanted to see me. Calming my excitement with great difficulty, I followed an orderly to the log cabin where Comrade Kim Il Sung was staying. The cabin was located between the barracks of the Young Volunteers and the 4th company of Wangching.

When I entered his room, Comrade Kim Il Sung rose and shook my hands with a firm grip.

"Comrade Myung Suk! (This was how I was called then.) You must have undergone great hardship!" I blushed when he showed such concern.

He offered me a chair and, examining my clothes,

said with great concern: "You've grown thin. And your uniform is faded. You need a new uniform. The inhabitants and you comrades must be having a hard time."

I was greatly moved by his concern for his men, for the people, by his deep affection for people whose joy and pain he regards as his own.

It was true that we, busy fighting the immediate battles against the enemy, had failed to prepare enough clothes for winter. As for myself, I should have paid more attention to the everyday life of the Young Volunteers. It was not a problem merely of the clothes. It was a political one affecting the morale of the men. It was all the more so in view of the fact that the enemy, in an attempt to deceive the people in the areas under its rule, had launched the false propaganda that "communist soldiers are dying of hunger and cold every day."

Comrade Kim Il Sung had not yet fully recovered from his illness which had attacked him while on the north Manchurian expedition. But regardless of his health condition he worked hard day and night to get acquainted with the situation at Yaoyingkou, worked heart and soul to solve knotty problems.

He asked me in detail about the work of the Young Communist League in the Young Volunteers. Having learned how many weapons and ammunition we had, how education was conducted for the youth, how the work was organized, how the Young Volunteers' ranks had swollen, and what method we employed in our work, he told me about the problems of the Y.C.L. work.

After the talks, he inspected the barracks of the Young Volunteers. I accompanied him. The Young Volunteers greeted Comrade Kim Il Sung with great joy. While visiting the Young Volunteers at their barracks he went up to the youngest one in the company, who was short and, for this reason, called

"Shorty." He had been a member of the Children's Corps at Luotzukou before he recently joined the Young Volunteers.

Comrade Kim Il Sung asked "Shorty" in detail about his family, whether he could fight the enemy with arms. "Certainly I can," he answered vigorously.

Much pleased, Comrade Kim Il Sung remarked, patting him on the head: "Good! You will be an excellent soldier!"

Comrade Kim Il Sung studied "Shorty's" uniform and told us: "He needs a smaller uniform, doesn't he?"

We again turned red at his words. "Shorty's" uniform did not fit him. It was a uniform for a tall, full-grown man. He looked funny in it. He could not wear it without rolling up the sleeves and trousers. If we had paid attention, even a hundredth part of what Comrade Kim Il Sung was paying, to soldiers' everyday life, we would have mended "Shorty's" uniform or managed to get one that was of the right size.

Then he inspected soldiers' diet and asked about the food supply. In those days we were living on corn cake—two chunks as big as a child's hand each for a whole day.

Having listened as I explained he instructed that the Young Volunteers should, while defending the base area, cultivate crops in their spare time to secure the food they need and, at the same time, should give a helping hand to the inhabitants in their farm work.

A man who grasps the main link and goes deep into all other problems related to it, Comrade Kim Il Sung made deep study of the people's living in Yaoyingkou on the basis of his observation of the Young Volunteers' life. He taught us to actively help the people with whom we had kindred ties.

But our work with the people had not been as

satisfactory as he wanted. The living condition of the people was very difficult in those days. We were talking about serving the people, yet we failed to do anything worth mentioning for the stabilization of their living in such a difficult period.

It was quite possible, as Comrade Kim Il Sung said, for us to spare time and give a helping hand to the inhabitants in their farm work, build houses for them during the intervals between battles.

I saw for myself how much he was concerned about the freedom and happiness of the people, and was convinced that I must train myself harder to become a true revolutionary serving the people, following his example.

A few days later, Comrade Kim Il Sung personally worked out a plan of attacking the town of Sanchakou.

Our company was applying itself to defence battles for beating back the enemy's "winter operations" in those days, and therefore it hardly occurred to us that we should attack such a big town as Sanchakou.

But he planned an offensive operation, creatively applying to the partisan warfare the tactical principle — offensive was the best form of defence.

I was assigned to guard Comrade Kim Il Sung, so that I could see how he mapped out the plan of operation for attacking the town.

On the eve of the planned battle the enemy's "punitive troops" made an unsuccessful attack on the partisan base area. We drove it back and quartered on Mt. Nanshan in Yaoyingkou. Soldiers, weary after a series of battles, fell fast asleep. With other bodyguards, I warmed a room of a deserted house at the foot of the mountain and made up a bed for Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, however, intent on his work over a map, showed the least sign of going

to bed. It was cold outside. The wind was blowing the snow, beating against the door, and draughts coming in through the door crevices were flickering the lamplight in the room.

He had not yet completely recovered. Nevertheless, showing no sign of fatigue on his face he was working on the plan of operation.

He got up when it was time to relieve the guard on duty and went up to a comrade to awaken him. Noticing I was not yet asleep, he said: "Why, Comrade Myung Suk, you have not turned in yet! Go to bed now!"

"I'm all right, Comrade Commander. But allow me to ask you to go to bed," I asked, greatly worried.

"Don't mind about me. You go to bed now," he repeatedly told me.

He resumed his work over the map after the change of guards. Night had far advanced, yet, with no thought for himself, he was working absorbedly on the plan of operation. A truly noble man!

I felt again how happy I was to be one of his soldiers. Under his direct command and in co-operation with the partisans we launched an attack on Sanchakou. This ended in our victory. In the battle, we captured some weapons of which we were in great need and a large amount of clothing material, enough to make uniforms for the soldiers and a suit of clothes for each person in the base area. We were immensely happy. A properly fitting uniform made "Shorty" happy.

All of us moved with new life and spirit in defiance of the biting cold of the winter. The day after getting into new uniforms, Comrade Kim Il Sung sent for us cadres of the Young Volunteers. We went to him with light gait, anticipating he would assign us a new combat duty.

But to our surprise, he had summoned us to

consult about the disposal of the clothing material left over after making our uniforms.

"Have you any good idea about how to use the remaining material? Tell me, please."

We were embarrassed at his unexpected question. We did not have any particular idea about it, but had actually thought we might use it to make more uniforms. That was why no one of us could answer him promptly.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, who had asked us in serious tone, looked round us for a short while before he resumed:

"What do you say to distributing the goods among the people in the enemy-ruled area?"

We expressed our unanimous approval. Pleased with our answer Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"...Our people are going about now in rags and suffering hunger everywhere because of the Japanese imperialists. We are men of the people's army who have taken up arms with the determination to fight for genuine freedom and happiness of the people. The people's misfortune and suffering are our misfortune and suffering. We must, therefore, regard the people's joy and misfortune as our own. We should always bear this in mind day in and day out. Never forget it.

"This is our approach not only to the people in the partisan base areas but also to those in the areas under the enemy's control. We have extra textiles now. We may, of course, keep them and use them for making our uniforms. But, comrades, a true people's army would rather distribute the remainder among the people who are shivering in this terrible cold in the enemy-ruled areas than keep it for future use. Let us give them the material so that they can use it to make clothes. Picture to yourselves how happy they will be!"

Moved by Comrade Kim Il Sung's profound love and concern for the people, we could not but reproach ourselves for yet being far from becoming the Communists who know the true meaning of the words "for the people."

We pledged that we would immediately put his words into practice.

Comrade Kim Il Sung assigned the duty to us Young Volunteers.

Every night we went to the enemy-controlled area breaking through the enemy's strict cordon taking fabrics with us, and visited the people from house to house, giving some to each. The thought that we were messengers of the warm affection of Comrade Kim Il Sung encouraged us when covering a steep passage in severe cold and breaking through the enemy lines.

When I went to a village west of Sanchakou I knocked at the door of a solitary peasant house.

"Who is there?" came a voice from inside.

The host opened the door and was surprised at the sight of me in partisan uniform. He took me by the hand and invited me to come in. No sooner had I stepped into the room than the host went outside to look around the house. Then he came back. I found that the family was in a wretched condition. No one of the family members was properly dressed. When I put the fabrics before them, they were all dumbfounded, not knowing what it was all about.

I said to the householder:

"General Kim Il Sung has sent me to you, instructing me to give the poor people suffering under the Japanese yoke the fabrics we captured during the Sanchakou battle..."

The family members were deeply moved. They were beside themselves. The householder, who had never worn even hemp clothes in his life, told me

he could scarcely believe his eyes, expressing his thanks again and again to the General for the deep solicitude.

I explained to them in detail that the people would wear silk clothes, instead of hemp or cotton, when General Kim Il Sung smashes the Japanese and liberates Korea. They livened up and on their faces I read confidence in victory and rays of hope.

Leaving the house, I advised the householder that the family members change into new clothes one by one, not all at once, so that they might not arouse the suspicion of the enemy.

The housheoulder told me when bidding farewell: "I've never experienced such a bliss in my life. I must repay the General for his great concern for us poor peasants and to do so I'll do everything in my power to help you partisans."

I still remember the eyes of the peasant who looked at me and said: "I'll live a life worthy of a Korean."

His gaze expressing his hope for the morrow and his profound trust in General Kim Il Sung will remain forever in my memory.

He saw me off, expressing his firm conviction that the General would certainly build a new society for the poor to enjoy a happy, free life.

Was it the hope and desire of that peasant alone? Everywhere General Kim Il Sung's warm affection and deep concern were shown, the people helped with their whole hearts the anti-Japanese partisans, looking forward to a happy morrow.

Comrade Kim Il Sung's great plan for ensuring the people freedom and happiness has been realized in our motherland where a socialist paradise is being built. Today our people are enjoying happiness to their hearts' content, working with zest.

Whenever I see Comrade Kim Il Sung, busy as he is with state affairs, taking to look after the

people, with such paternal love, inspecting factories and fishing villages and visiting smelters and weavers at work in order to help them lead more abundant and happier life, I recall the warm love and concern he had shown for the people in the past.

We owe our life today to the deep solicitude and affection of Comrade Kim Il Sung, thanks to which we can look forward to a happier life tomorrow when the country will be more prosperous.

At a Company Party Branch Meeting

By KIM JWA HYUK

In June 1935 our company was stationed near Santaohotzu in Ningan county after the Laoheisan battle.

Following the victorious Laoheishan Battle which gave us encouragement, we were confronted with new tasks — political activity among the people in northern Manchuria and a new combat mission.

In those days, in our company there were some who had certain shortcomings in their everyday life, though they had many exploits to their credit.

Among some Party members arose disagreement in their everyday life, which often impeded the unity of will. The disagreement was caused by the slight difference of opinions originating from different characters, habits and tastes of Party members and the lack of mutual understanding. In those days, "Left" deviations once manifested in the struggle against the "Minsaingdan" had its harmful effect on some new Party members, who harboured suspicion and had misunderstanding about minor things in their relations.

Such tendency, though expressed by a few of

the partisans, might affect the comradely unity in the relations between other comrades. The Company Party branch, therefore, was preparing to hold a meeting for putting an end to such shortcomings at once.

Around that time news of Comrade Kim Il Sung's visit to our company reached us. We were, however, worried at the thought that we might trouble him, whom we had been so eager to see, with the shortcomings of some members, instead of showing him our proud achievements.

It was evident that Comrade Kim Il Sung, prudent in all things, would certainly discover in our company even the smallest shortcomings in our daily life as soon as he came to our company even before we told him about them.

Comrade Choi Choong Heui who had attended for 15 days the lectures personally given by Comrade Kim Il Sung in Wangching, told us: "He is an intelligent man. You'll see it for yourselves when you attend a meeting he presides over. It will refresh you just as a cup of cold water does a thirsty man."

Comrade Choi Choong Heui's words proved true. Comrade Kim Il Sung minutely studied all aspects of life, giving us concrete guidance in making combat preparations and in our everyday life.

Answering our salute with a smile, he first visited the peasant houses where we took up lodgings, inquired after the soldiers' health, asked them about their diet and study, and taught them in detail how to tackle the problems facing them.

He learned through conversation the situation in our company and came to see what was worrying us.

In these circumstances a meeting of the Company Party branch was held. Secretary of the Party

branch made a report on the life of Party members. He spoke of the relations between some Party members as they were, not withholding anything from Comrade Kim Il Sung.

After Secretary's report, several comrades took the floor. They opened their hearts, saying that someone was approaching another from such and such angle and was taking such and such view of another, causing an obstacle to the unity between comrades and sometimes causing hard feelings over a trifling matter.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, attentively listened to the soldiers' speeches.

Their speeches were over and a hush reigned, the attendants all waiting anxiously for Comrade Kim Il Sung's speech. He took the rostrum and began to speak in an unruffled tone.

"...I have come to see many things at this meeting. I think the meeting was timely. When you have something at issue, you should present it for the debate without losing time. This is very important..."

The Party members, wearing a serious expression on their faces, carefully listened to him. With a gentle smile he looked round us and said in a calm voice:

"...Opinions may sometimes clash even between the members of a family. When one insists on one's opinion only, it will lead to a clash. As for ourselves, we have come from different regions and among us are newcomers who have not yet become familiar with each other. So lack of understanding in our relation on account of a trifling thing may lead to misunderstanding. The problems now at issue must, I think, have sprung from such misunderstanding.

"You can get over these shortcomings when you convince each other of their shortcomings and help each other rectify them..."

We listened spellbound, holding our breath, to his kind but logical words. We were deeply moved by

Comrade Kim Il Sung's magnanimity whenever we were told about his noble moral character.

Some time earlier our commanders gave us an account of the meetings in Tahuangwei and Yaoyingkou, Wangching county, which aroused in us boundless respect for Comrade Kim Il Sung, though we had not seen him at the time, and his deep confidence in and love for the revolutionary comrades moved us to tears.

We had been speaking in admiration of the unswerving, principled stand and the revolutionary boldness and firmness Comrade Kim Il Sung showed in rectifying the ultra-left errors made in the struggle against "Minsaingdan" and putting it on the right track, saving many revolutionary comrades from falling victim to the vicious schemes of the factional and subversive elements and rallying them closely in the ranks of the revolution.

So at that meeting where we were honoured by the presence of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we attentively listened to him so as not to miss even a word and took to heart all he said.

I recall what he said: The outline of his speech is still fresh in my memory.

"... In the first place, I should like to counsel you comrades. Take a broader view of the problems and display broad-mindedness in considering them, and you will be able to solve everything at once. What have we gathered together here for?

"We have all come out for the revolution. The aim of the revolution is to overthrow Japanese imperialism, restore our country and build a society for the entire people to lead a happy life.

"Remember how you joined the partisans, leaving your parents, wives and children behind. What was in our minds at that time? Our minds were preoccupied with the revolution, weren't they?

"We hail from different regions, but one and the

same purpose and thought have brought us together. It is the same with Comrade Kim and Comrade Ri. There is nothing different about Comrade Bak and Comrade Choi..."

We blushed and could not raise our heads when he mentioned us by name by way of illustration.

Comrade Kim Il Sung went on:

"...We have one and the same purpose and ideas, don't we? There is no room for any other purpose and ideas. Is there anything more honourable for you than to have come out for the revolution?..."

He urged us to look back on our past.

True, we had lived in different conditions and had traversed different roads before we were brought together in the partisan units. Some comrades were from Hamgyung and Pyungan Provinces and others hailed from distant Chulla and Kyungsan Provinces. Also different were their family status, knowledge standard, customs and jobs in their civilian life.

As a matter of fact, those comrades who had spent their boyhood and youth in foreign lands where their families took refuge to escape the oppression by the Japanese imperialists and the landlords, lived in conditions different from those of the comrades who lived in Korea before joining the partisans. As for myself, son of a tenant farmer, I had suffered at the hands of the landlord in China before joining the partisans.

Lofty thought and purpose united us coming from different parts in the same ranks fighting to liberate our country from Japanese imperialism. There were, however, cases of our bringing to the fore minor disagreement appearing among us in the same ranks. I myself too would persist in my view in my early partisan life, often neglecting the friendly comradeship and the conduct required of Party members.

Listening to Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Party meeting I was very much ashamed of my past be-

haviour.

He continued:

"...To become an excellent revolutionary, we must be faithful to the Party life and make constant endeavours for self-improvement on Party principles. To attain our great aim, we must devote our all to the revolution.

"In the relations between us partisans who are comrades-in-arms fighting for the same goal, for the great cause, disagreement resulting from different characters, tastes and customs is very trifling..."

"...I do not mean, however, that minor shortcomings and disagreement manifested in our day-to-day life can be tolerated. The shortcomings, though minor, may become a big obstacle to the fulfilment of our great aim. We should not tolerate shortcomings, however minor they may be, but must strive to correct them.

"We should endeavour to correct our own shortcomings and, at the same time, spare no efforts to help our comrades correct their shortcomings. This is essential for further cementing the identity of thought and purpose among comrades-in-arms.

"You should take more warm-hearted, comradely approach to those who have shortcomings, and help them to rid themselves of the shortcomings. You should first pay attention to their good points, not forming your view merely by their shortcomings, and actively help them develop their good points, though they are minor ones.

"Then, pay heed to their shortcomings, too, and whole-heartedly help them so that they can be convinced of their defects and overcome them. No one will turn away from his comrade who is sincerely helping him, will he? Most important of all is, therefore, to trust and love our comrades. Without mutual trust and help in the relations between comrades, you can hardly go through thick and thin together

on the difficult road of revolution, and hardly attain the ultimate aim and emerge as a victor.

"We should always bear in mind that the Communist has the most beautiful character in the world and he is the noblest humanitarian.

"Such a lofty character will not be cultivated without tireless study. A revolutionary is required, above all, to have thorough-going understanding of the revolution. You must not neglect even a moment the study of Marxism-Leninism which is the mental pabulum for revolution.

"You should have profound knowledge of the revolutionary theories and know how to apply them in practice.

"...Bear in mind that you must not pass over in silence any minor shortcomings and that you must make every effort to help a man rectify his defects at an early date, by means of personal advice and of assistance by the collective. Criticism and mutual assistance must be a rule in the everyday life of the Party members.

"Only by doing so, can the Party members achieve the unity of ideology, will and action and reap fine fruits in the struggle for successful accomplishment of the revolution, our great aim..."

Comrade Kim Il Sung's words convinced us of our errors.

As his speech was over we, with heads down, sat in deep thought, examining ourselves.

"Well, do you understand me and have you anything to say?" he asked patting some of the men on the shoulder. Deeply moved we did not know how to answer.

All the comrades present brightened and it seemed they became light-hearted, as if relieved of a heavy burden. Comrade Kim Il Sung unravelled in a few hours all the knots in the life of our Party members and instilled great ideas and self-consciousness into

the hearts of all Party members.

This was not all. Comrade Kim Il Sung's words at the meeting became a precious guide to action for us Party members in maintaining relations between ourselves, relations with non-Party people and in our work with the masses.

Now that they had been convinced of their mistakes, those comrades who had been cross with each other on account of minor misunderstandings made up. Life in the company became incomparably more cheerful and the atmosphere became more fresh and lively.

All the members of the company, not to speak of the Party members, taking Comrade Kim Il Sung's words to heart, untiringly strove to correct the shortcomings which occurred in the company. In the course of our endeavours, we were bound more closely by the ties of genuine revolutionary comradeship of mutual help in difficult battles, and the unity of ideology, will and action was further strengthened in the ranks of the revolution.

As a result, we could successfully carry on the campaign on the arduous northern Manchurian expedition. On our expedition into the wide areas of northern Manchuria under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we won the admiration of the people for our deeds following his example, and everywhere we went we instilled into the minds of the people the spirit of daring struggle against the enemy so that they came out resolutely in the struggle against Japanese imperialism, the common enemy of the Korean and Chinese peoples.

* * *

In those arduous days of the armed struggle, Comrade Kim Il Sung, as he does today, would personally come down to the units availing himself of his spare time in the intervals between battles and

marches, and spare no efforts to solve difficult and arduous problems for us. He would particularly make comprehensive study of and grasp the merits and demerits of the Party organizations and, on this basis, personally elaborate concrete measures for improving Party work and strengthening the Party life of the members. He would also give us concrete guidance in maintaining adamantine unity and solidarity of our ranks.

Whenever I look back on the difficult days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, I think with deep emotion of Comrade Kim Il Sung's revolutionary style of work and the great vitality of the Chungsan-ri method that has sprung from it and come to prevail throughout the whole Party. And, at the same time, I recall with vividness how he set practical examples and what instructions he gave us at the Party meetings, and I review my work and Party life.

(Have I any shortcomings in my work and method of guidance? What about my Party life? Have I made sufficient efforts to train myself as required of a revolutionary?.. .)

I try to see my own shortcomings, even minor ones, by examining myself, and then make every effort to rectify them.

The practical examples of Comrade Kim Il Sung and every word of his instructions have afforded and are affording Korean Communists the ideas and guide to action that lead them forward with great force.

In the Course of the Expedition to Northern Manchuria

By OH JIN WOO

In the long years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle Comrade Kim Il Sung always looked after the rank and file with utmost care, and paid the greatest attention to bringing up and training us into staunch revolutionary fighters.

No words, spoken or written, can give a true picture of how we young partisans grew up under his warm care in those difficult and trying days and became strong fighters.

Here I should like to confine myself to telling a few unforgettable, moving stories from among the many which I witnessed or experienced personally while I was fighting the enemy together with Comrade Kim Il Sung.

In June 1935 when I was with the Fourth Company of the Fifth Regiment, Korean People's Revolutionary Army, I started on the historic Expedition to northern Manchuria under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung. Still young, I found the ex-

pedition a grim trial for me, going through severe tests all the way.

Following the Laoheishan Battle, our partisan unit operated in the Luotzukou area, then we crossed the Laoyehling ridge and advanced to the areas of Ningan and Emu counties where we delivered crushing blows to the enemy in many battles. Meanwhile we inspired a revolutionary spirit in the broad sections of the population.

The inhabitants of the region had so far been under less influence of the revolution than the people of eastern Manchuria. We took up the work of actively explaining and propagandizing among the people the aggressive policy of the Japanese imperialists, about the justness of the partisan struggle and the prospects of the revolution, thereby infusing a firmer faith in victory in them.

Enjoying warm support from the people everywhere, our unit was on the march from Emu county towards Chiaoho county in the winter of 1935. It really was tough going, forcing our way through the waist-deep snow in the thick forests in the teeth of a howling snowstorm.

And it was in the course of that arduous march that I saw how kind and warm-hearted Comrade Kim Il Sung was towards the partisan fighters.

To this day the memories of those days remain vivid in my mind, and will remain for ever.

Whenever the unit came to bivouac in the forests, he made sure that the partisans fell asleep first, and then after looking round and ascertaining all were asleep, would lie down to have a short rest. In the morning he was always the first to get up. More than once, I saw him take wet boots off the feet of sleeping men and dry them at the camp-fire in the dead of night when the men were fast asleep. The sight always touched me deeply.

Once we were preparing ourselves for the march

after a rest at a village. Comrade Kim Il Sung told the partisans to put on the "dorogi" (a kind of Chinese leather shoes) which they had been carrying with them. I put on my "dorogi", and it was the first time I had worn them. It was very awkward to walk in them. They would not stay on but slip off every now and then.

Seeing this, Comrade Kim Il Sung approached and asked me to let him have a look at my "dorogi". Silently, I pulled off one of the "dorogi" and showed it to him. He took it in his hands and closely examined to see what was wrong. He took out the straw, softened it and respread it evenly. My face burned with shame at the thought that I was giving him trouble in such a trifling thing as shoes. I insisted that I could manage myself.

"You headstrong man..." said Comrade Kim Il Sung in a kind voice. "That won't do, I tell you. That's not the way to wear the "dorogi". You have to spread the straw to fit your feet perfectly like this, then the feet will be warm and the shoes will not slip off. Now, come on with your other "dorogi", I'll fix it."

I could not help taking it off and handing it to him.

He pounded the straw until it was fluffy, and spread it in the "dorogi". He arranged the straw so that the shoes did not pinch.

Wearing the "dorogi" fixed personally by him, I felt as if I had winged feet. I thought I could walk endlessly without stopping to rest.

"How do you feel?" Comrade Kim Il Sung asked me smilingly.

"I feel perfectly comfortable," I replied.

With a satisfied look Comrade Kim Il Sung patted me on the back. He also carefully inspected the footwear of other partisans one after another.

His warm hand and solicitude reached every nook

and corner of the life of the partisan fighters.

He derived pleasure from his sincere love for the men and from looking after each of them with paternal affection; when the situation was tough he showed all the more solicitude for the partisans. Not thinking of himself, he went through thick and thin together with them!

Nothing could possibly make us happier than to serve him and fight under his command!

Rallied firmly around him, we marched on forging our way through the rugged mountains and forests.

Our march was attended with much more difficulty after we crossed the border of Chiaoho county.

Alarmed at the Expedition to Northern Manchuria of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army commanded by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the enemy came in hot pursuit of our partisan unit. We went on a forced march, hitting the enemy and then continuing the march again.

The march continued day and night. Once after marching through the night, we reached a valley at dawn and found the place scattered with charcoal.

How nice it would be to make a fire with the charcoal when we were bivouacking, was our thought. Thinking thus, we hurried about gathering pieces of charcoal. I, too, gathered some and carried a pack with me.

The column stopped at the top of the pass for a rest. Exhausted from the continuous march, the partisans sat down on the snow and some of them soon fell asleep and began snoring.

When I sat down I felt as if I were sinking into the ground, I was overcome by drowsiness. To dispel the drowsiness, I kept rubbing my eyes with my hand. But it failed to help, and at last I dropped off to sleep.

I was having a deep sleep, so that when an order

to resume the march was given it came as vaguely as in a dream. It was not before I heard the bustling sounds of other men moving and rising that I opened my eyes. I jumped to my feet, taking the charcoal pack in my arms.

But as I walked I still was not fully awake.

In this state of half sleep I continued to walk for some distance, when I sensed something was missing—my shoulder was too light, though I was holding the bundle of charcoal in my arms. It was the gun, my rifle that was missing!

I went weak inside. I turned back and, beside myself, ran along the path in feverish haste towards the place where we had just stopped for a rest.

Seized with panic, I had no sense of distance at all. The place where we had rested was not so far away, but it seemed to me more than 4-5 kilometres. Breathing heavily, I ran up the steep mountain side.

A little way short of the top, I came upon Comrade Kim Il Sung who was just climbing down the mountain. He had remained behind and looked round the whole place. Seeing me, he asked me in his usual tone of voice:

"Where are you going, Comrade Jin Woo?"

I was quite at a loss what to say.

"My r-r... rifle..." I stammered out. Words stuck in my throat. Unable to say any more, I tried to continue my way up the mountain. But Comrade Kim Il Sung took me by the sleeve and held me back.

"Don't lose your head," he said with a smile.

It was not until then that I saw my rifle slung over his shoulder. I felt hot in the face as if burnt by fire. I stood stockstill in my tracks, not knowing what to say or how to behave myself. My heart ached with pangs of remorse. Was it not a weapon of the revolution obtained at the cost of the life of our comrades-in-arms? And yet, I had forgotten it

in the mountain! A fine mess!

With a guilty conscience, I reproached myself for my carelessness.

Comrade Kim Il Sung told me to turn back to catch up with the unit, and then led the way, gun on his shoulder.

I told him that I would shoulder the gun, but he wouldn't give it to me. Unable to say any more, I followed at his heels silently. Then, memories flashed through my mind of my first meeting with him at Shaopeikou of Yaoyingkou, the march through the forests of Laoyehling after the battles of Laoheishan and Taipingkou, and of the merciless blows we dealt to the enemy everywhere in northern Manchuria. Also, I recalled how he had fixed the "dorogi" for me.

And what a profound solicitude he showed for us rank and file in those days of arduous fighting!

I felt heavy at heart. Before long the sun with its dazzling rays rose over the mountain ridge in the east. Feeling awkward with the mixed sensations of shame, anguish and self-reproach, I took my position in the marching ranks, quite downhearted.

And, goodness knows why, my comrades burst out laughing the moment their eyes fell upon me. They held their sides with laughter, unable to suppress it. Then, Comrade Kim Il Sung who was standing beside, looked at me and also smiled.

Not knowing the reason for all this, I was all the more disconcerted. I had already been ashamed of myself without their laughing at me. Now that they began laughing, I blushed up to the temples.

Comrade Kim Il Sung took a mirror out of his pocket and handed it to me, saying: "Look in it. Just see what your face is like..."

I put down on the ground the bundle of charcoal which I had been holding in my arms till then, took the mirror and looked at myself. Good gracious! I

was astounded to see my face.

It was a real spectacle, my face. It was black all over, smeared with charcoal. My eyeballs gleamed white against this black visage. I had rubbed my face with my dirty hands which were holding charcoal. I was so embarrassed that I looked away quickly from the mirror.

The march continued. The snowstorm raged in all its fury. But I did not feel the biting cold at all, only one thought—the gun—gnawed at my heart. Even as I walked my mind was taken up entirely by the thought of the gun. I impatiently waited for Comrade Kim Il Sung to hand over the gun to me.

But he strode down the mountain path without saying a word, still with my gun on his shoulder. By all appearance, I thought to myself, he was going to give me a good scolding! I was not a little worried. But there was no one to blame but myself for the blunder. I felt pangs of remorse for my carelessness.

Many hours passed, but still Comrade Kim Il Sung said nothing about the gun. When our unit reached its destination, I slumped down heavily on the snow.

After a short while, an orderly came and told me that Comrade Kim Il Sung wanted me to come to him. My heart began to pound. I could not calm myself.

What would he say? was my first thought. He would probably forbid me to have the gun for the present or maybe punish me severely...

Feeling uneasy, I stood before him at attention. He gazed at me for a while, and then took the gun which was standing beside him. As he gave it to me, he said in a quiet voice:

"You seemed very tired, so I just helped you carry the gun. I believe you will not repeat the same thing you did today. Now, take the gun."

I felt a lump in my throat. Tears welled to my

eyes. Only now did I understand why he had carried my gun all the way. My heart was too full for utterance.

I would rather wish he had taken me to task hotly. Quite at a loss what to say, I was in a fidget, standing clumsily before him. At last I managed with difficulty to mumble:

"Comrade Commander..." But I was choked and could not say any more.

Seeming to read my mind clearly, he said in a kind voice as if to soothe me:

"Your feelings are fully understandable... The point is that you become aware of your fault and correct it. Now, go and have a rest."

He did not say any more.

The words uttered by Comrade Kim Il Sung at that time were far more powerful in making me realize my fault than any kind of punishment or severe measures which could have been taken against me.

Gripping the gun tightly, I resolved in the depths of my heart that I would be more courageous than ever in battles against the enemy, braving fire and water if he ordered me to do so.

The march was resumed. Carrying the gun, I felt as if the warm hand of Comrade Kim Il Sung was on my shoulder. I walked forward in the file with rising spirits.

After that happening, I marched ahead, enduring and overcoming all the difficulties lying in our path, with firmer determination to carry out the revolutionary tasks assigned to me with greater devotion.

A Deep Love for the People

By HU BONG HAK

Back in the summer of 1935 Comrade Kim Il Sung started on the Expedition to Northern Manchuria, leading the main force of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The battles we fought during the expedition I shall never forget all my life—the Laoheishan battle, the Shantungtun battle in Ningan county, a battle in the vicinity of Kwandi, and other big and small engagements. And also unforgettable against the background of those battles was an event which took place when we were preparing for the New Year's festival in a village near Kwandi in Emu county together with the village folk. As time goes by it presents itself to my mind with growing vividness.

As had been the case with the other people, the Chinese people, too, used to think the New Year one of the greatest occasions for celebration. They had a custom of keeping the festivities alive for 15 days on end, from January 1 to 15. It was their belief that a good New Year festival would bring good fortune.

And the inhabitants of Emu county where we were then staying, were not an exception. They were busy preparing for the New Year's festival for 1936. Besides, they were preparing some nice presents for us because they felt it "a supreme honour to celebrate the New Year in company with the units of Commander Kim", who had sown the seeds of revolution in their hearts and opened up for them the road of struggle and victory.

The occasion was a particularly joyous one for the members of the company I belonged to; it was for the first time in all our years of partisan struggle that we were observing the New Year's festival with Comrade Kim Il Sung. This made us so much more cheerful, while it hardened our determination afresh to render greater services in the coming year's struggle. We cleaned our weapons with greater care, had a shave and a bath, washed our clothes and dressed ourselves neatly for the occasion. In the meantime we were mindful of following the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung as to conducting good mass work and strictly observing discipline. We did our best to act as he had told us—to respect the aged, pay due regard to local customs, help actively the local folk in arduous work, have talks with them and conduct explanatory work among them. We behaved ourselves with the greatest circumspection in our relation with the villagers, even to the least word or act. When we met old folk, we made a deep bow and addressed them in the most polite terms, calling them Tayeh (grandfather) or Taniang (grandmother). Towards the seniors, too, we used terms of respect, Tako (elder brother) or Tachieh (elder sister); we addressed children in a gentle manner, using the terms of Hsiaoti (younger brother) or Hsiaomei (younger sister). Thus, we treated them just like our own parants or brothers.

To make people break away from their misconcep-

tions on some matters instilled in them through the vicious propaganda of the enemy and to rid them of their superstitious beliefs, we resorted to the method of explanation and persuasion, instead of decrying the wrong views scathingly. We explained to the people the source of their poverty and disastrous conditions in which they were living, that their poverty was caused not by the superstitious evils but by the inhuman exploitation by the Japanese imperialists and the landlords. And our painstaking efforts were not in vain. Our revolutionary organizations were expanded to many villages in Emu county alone, and quite a few young people of worker origin joined up, the company I belonged to receiving many of them. Not only that, even those old people and women who had had an unfavourable opinion of the partisan detachments came and begged to "be admitted into the partisan units led by Commander Kim to fight the Japanese imperialists."

Here is a story of how our partisan fighters worked among the local people. One of our comrades had been sent to the village of Hsiaowatun to conduct political work among the villagers. When he talked to the people, he recalled how he, a hired hand at a landlord's, had been worked like a beast of burden and insulted by his master, and told the people how happy he had been when he came upon a partisan detachment under the command of General Kim and was enlisted. He also told the villagers in detail about the political liberty and lofty morality attained by the people at a base of partisan struggle in eastern Manchuria, adducing many concrete instances. His simple but deeply moving narrative was so appealing that some of the youths in the audience asked for enlistment in the partisan unit. Among them was one young Chinese woman. She was born into the family of a hired peasant and had gone through untold sufferings, doing all sorts

of drudgeries, and been humiliated . On top of this, she had been married off against her will when still young.

The fact came to the knowledge of Comrade Kim Il Sung who called her in together with others newly recruited. He praised the woman for her ardent wish to join the partisan unit. Then, he told her that though it might be good for her to join the partisan detachment, it would be still better if she stayed in the village and fought the Japanese imperialists. In this way he persuaded her to go back home.

In doing so, he had carefully reckoned with the situation obtaining in the village of Hsiaowatun at that time. He had in mind something much more important.

Later, our company commander explained to us why Comrade Kim Il Sung had done so. His explanation was this.

Before our unit arrived at the village, the place had been beset with local bandits. Those gangs would set fire to the houses of villagers, rob them of cattle, provisions and money, kidnap young women. The Japanese imperialist aggressors took advantage of this for their vicious propaganda among the local population spreading a false report that the communist army committed incendiarism, plundered the village folk of their property and carried women away. This had caused some local inhabitants to form a distorted idea of our partisan units. Such being the situation, if we did not take account of it and received the woman into the partisan detachment simply because she had asked for enlistment, it would have meant playing into the hands of the enemy. In the first place, her husband and certain people who had a little understanding might have well thought: "So the Communists really kidnap women," and the enemy would have certainly made

capital of this for stepping up their vile propaganda against us. But when we made her go home, how would things turn out? Wouldn't the local folk come to have greater faith in the partisan fighters, and the woman herself, who already was thinking very highly of us and was awakened to the cause of revolution, be able to contribute to the strengthening of the local revolutionary forces if she did good political work among the local population?

Actually, after that the local people began to show greater trust in us partisans than before. Thus, the intelligent efforts of Comrade Kim Il Sung for strengthening the ties with the people, for carrying on explanatory work and educational work among them, and organizing and expanding the revolutionary forces everywhere, always bore fruits.

The same day Comrade Kim Il Sung came to the village near Kwandi where we were staying, and encouraged us to work with greater energy among the masses. He also offered words of thanks to each of the people who had welcomed us with their whole heart and invited us to "celebrate the New Year Day together with them because we were as dear to them as their family members."

He looked round the village seeing what conditions the folk were living in, and had chats with them. This stirred the villagers deeply. An elderly man said: "The Japanese imperialists and local bandits having looted us, we have got nothing left. Our life has been no better than death itself. Now that Commander Kim has come, we shall be able to sleep in peace at night, I feel as if I could live even without anything to eat." As he said this he heaved a deep sigh of relief, and tears welled up in his eyes from deep emotion.

"There is an old saying which goes: Joyous is the day when one is visited by an honoured guest,"

the old man continued. "And the day when the units of Commander Kim arrived at our village will be remembered as the most festive day not only for me, but for all the villagers as well. A few days and it will be New Year's. So, every family is preparing food and wine for the New Year celebrations... Please be so kind as to honour us with your presence at our New Year's feast although it may be a meagre one."

Though we had got used to hearing people say things of that sort to us everywhere, the old man's words especially moved us. We felt as happy and delighted as if we were at home. This filled us with a fresh determination to fight in the interests of such people.

After spending busy hours doing the jobs assigned to us, we were taking a short rest, when Comrade Kim Il Sung, who had been talking with village folk, approached us.

He inspected our preparations for action made as told by him. He also listened to what we had to say about the work we had carried out among the population.

"Your style of working with the village folk, in my opinion, has been good," he said. "Our short stay seems to have produced good results. You have to continue to work still better so that all the people may have a correct understanding of our partisan detachments, of the fact that we are an army really fighting for the good of the people. This is a source of our victory..." He looked round at us as he said this, and then he moved up closer to a young recruit and patted him on the shoulder.

"Now, tell me what you have seen and felt during our stay in this village, will you, please?" he asked.

"Well, when we first came here," the young partisan replied without hesitation, straightening up, "the local people would rather try to keep out of our

way, or looked askance at us when they found themselves forced to face us. They thought we partisans were just the same kind of rascals as the Japanese imperialists and local bandits because they could not distinguish us from those at the hands of whom they had suffered so terribly before. But now it is gratifying to see they treat us like their own sons or brothers. So many people have joined up from this village alone, and they say the village folk are going to make presents for us on the occasion of the New Year's Day in spite of their difficult life. Observing New Year's Day among such people reminds me of the New Year festivities at our eastern Manchurian base."

"Your observation and judgement are right," Comrade Kim Il Sung praised the young partisan. And he went back to Headquarters.

We all got up and again got to work. Soon, an orderly came in a hurry and told us marching orders had been given. It was so unexpected that we could not even guess what it was all about.

"What could be the matter?" all wondered. "Could it be that enemies had turned up?"

In a fog, all of us hurried to get ready for marching.

"Nothing unusual at all," said someone in a cheerful voice, as if he were going to fight enemies that were approaching. "Crush Japanese imperialists first, and a gala-day feast next. That's always the way." Yet, some young partisans were sorry at the thought of the anticipated festivities being spoilt by the enemies.

Everything ready for the march, we went to bid farewell to the village folk.

At first they did not believe us, doubtful of what we told them, but seeing some of our men busily fitting themselves out for departure or others saying it was to be regretted that we were unable to cele-

brate the New Year's Day together with the village folk, they tried to induce us to stay with them. An old man took hold of a comrade's hand and wouldn't let it go, saying: "...You really are leaving, are you? Our folk seem to have given you some offence. How could your sudden departure be explained otherwise?"

We explained to the old people that we were obliged to leave owing to some urgent circumstances. We expressed our thanks over and over again to them for their hospitality shown to us during our stay, and said our farewell words. But they would not readily let us go, they followed us, saying: "...We know we cannot meddle in the affairs of you combatants. But it is really regrettable. If you have got even the slightest regard for our sincerity you couldn't leave like this on New Year's Eve..."

We were as reluctant to go as the village folk were to have us go. Among us those who had newly joined our ranks felt most reluctant.

We left the village at last. We reached a place in the depths of dense forests near Huangnihotzu after dark.

Comrade Kim Il Sung ordered the unit to a halt for rest. He then instructed the men to repair the deserted log cottages of lumberjacks standing nearby as billets. Hearing his orders we could judge what he had in mind when he had given the marching order to leave the village all of a sudden. But some of our recruits, unable to guess his intentions, seemed to have become homesick.

"At this hour they may be eating steamed meat dumplings, thinking of us!" one of them said. As we were talking about this sort of things sitting around the campfire, Comrade Kim Il Sung came out. He sat beside us and said:

"...A holiday brings joy to everyone. On such a joyous occasion, people ought to be in a position to

dress himself gaily, have something nice to eat and have jolly talk with friends. But now how many people are there who find themselves able to afford to do so in Korea and northeastern Manchuria, where the Japanese imperialists and landlords are strutting about?

"Take the inhabitants of the village near Kwandi where we have been staying until today. Excepting a few landlords, was there even a single man who could claim he was well off? Most of the villagers are shabbily dressed, without a change of clothes, and they do not have enough food to eat. Tomorrow will be New Year's Day and how many children there have gala dresses and how many old people can afford a bottle of wine to drink to the New Year! Some already have run out of provisions and are finding themselves unable to fill their stomachs even with watery porridge. As we saw, there were many who went to the landlords' asking for a loan of small amounts of kaoliang or millet. But what did they get from them? Nothing but insults. They had to return with empty bags.

"Nevertheless, the villagers were going to feast us with dainties. They tried to butcher pigs, make dumplings and buy wine for us.

"This was something which set us thinking. Of course, their support and assistance for us, their desire to share the New Year festivities with us, their readiness to feast us with delicacies were all an expression of their true sincerity. But was that what we should be entertained with? Could we eat and enjoy the New Year celebrations without qualm when we were aware that there were people among them who were being threatened with imminent starvation? If we, not one or two in number, but the whole unit, spent one day and were fed at the village, it would have cost the villages dearly, adding to their heavy burden."

As he said this, Comrade Kim Il Sung looked into the eyes of the comrade who had been talking just before somewhat regretfully.

"What do you think about it?" he asked the comrade. The young comrade remained silent, hanging his head.

"What do other comrades think about this?" he enquired, looking around at us.

After a while he went on to say:

"...The partisan unit had a small number of men and only a few rifles when it was organized. But you see what a great force we have grown into now! Our sphere of action has been extended far beyond the narrow limits of the partisan bases in the Gando region, and today our partisan detachments are operating all over northeast China.

"...At first we fought the enemies with red pepper powder, axes, sickles, spears and sticks, capturing weapons from them. That was only 4 or 5 years ago. But now we are strong enough to deal with large numbers of enemy troops and win battles in the course of our expedition covering thousands of *ri*. The Japanese imperialists tried at first to spread a false report that we were "bandits." But now the people don't believe that. Moreover, the peoples of the Soviet Union and China are rejoicing over our righteous struggle and its broad prospects.

"...What is it that has made us a force of such great might as it is today. Ours is an army equipped with Marxist-Leninist ideology, consisting of the true sons and daughters of the people. We are fighters ready to sacrifice our lives for the homeland and the people without hesitation. The unfailing source of our might lies in the very fact that we are one in body and spirit with the people, sharing weal and woe with them.

"...Of course, we must always fight well, but, above all, we must learn to have due respect for the

people everywhere, regard their interests as preciously as our own lives, endure all trials and tribulations, and live in the spirit of enjoying happiness and marching ahead together with the people. This is where our genuine happiness, pride and hope lie..."

He talked to us till a late hour. Now, the meal was ready, our New Year's feast, so to speak. But our feast consisted of nothing but cooked millet, a part of the little millet we had been carrying with us.

There were no meat dumplings, of course, which were a customary menu of New Year's feast for the Chinese comrades. But no one grumbled about the poor meal.

"Well, is there anything special about New Year's Day?" an old comrade said laughingly. "It's no special occasion at all for us. We are simply fortunate if we manage to get a bowl of porridge to keep off hunger. If we are served boiled rice, we are as joyous as on our birthday, aren't we?"

As he said this, he offered first bowls of hot millet to young comrades.

At this, some of the new partisan members who had been thinking about their homes were still more embarrassed and did not know what to do.

At the sight of this, Comrade Kim Il Sung smiled broadly and said:

"...We are now seeing out the old year, a meaningful year of victory, and welcoming in the New Year. And our meal, nothing more than boiled millet, may be meagre for the occasion. But for us this poor meal is as good as dainties of all lands and seas. We, enjoying the warm love of the people everywhere, are fighting for the liberation of the country and for building a new society. Then, how can we allow ourselves to be troubled over the matter of a meal? We have before us many a gala day and many a New Year festivity to observe in the liberated land

of our country together with thirty millions of our people.

"All we have to do now is to fight the enemies with an unshaken faith in victory..."

Then he took up the spoon.

The words of Comrade Kim Il Sung inspired us afresh with determination to fight to the last.

"This year too, let's fight and crush the enemies and capture machine guns and cannons without fail as we did in the Laoheishan battle!" Someone shouted.

I shall always remember the New Year's Day of that year. Every word uttered by Comrade Kim Il Sung that day, packed with profound love of people, words with which he educated and encouraged us to instil in us confidence in victory, and to make us the most faithful combatants and servants of the people, are still fresh in my memory.

And, above all, the following words seem to be ringing clearly in my ears even now.

"...We partisans should be as fierce as a lion towards the enemy, and as gentle as a lamb towards the people, giving all we have to their interests..."

Today, these words serve as a guiding principle in the struggle and life of our People's Army soldiers who are protecting the life of the people engaged in building socialism.

Great Influence

By KIM CHANG BONG

To win over the broad masses of people is the key to the victory of the revolution.

Throughout the anti-Japanese armed struggle, Comrade Kim Il Sung educated us in this truth, especially in the idea of working along the line of the united front embracing broad strata of the people.

In the light of the then prevailing situation in northeast China, it was of great significance in carrying out the line of the united front to influence the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" towards intensified co-operation with us in military actions and, at the same time, to win over men and officers of the "Manchukuo" army to our side.

The puppet "Manchukuo" army was a hostile army, but its rank and file, who had been drafted into the army by force, all belonged to the basic masses. Even among its officers there were quite a few people who had not entirely lost their national conscience, but were in vacillation.

Always emphasizing this point, Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed us to appeal to the national conscience of the upper crust of the puppet "Manchu-

kuo" army and to the class conscience of its rank and file. He also told us to be broad-minded and patient in conducting work in the "Manchukuo" army.

Comrade Kim Il Sung always took the initiative and set examples in carrying out this policy. Everywhere he went, the line of the united front bore fruit.

Here is an incident which I personally witnessed when I was fighting under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

It was early in January (lunar calender), 1936. Our company on the Expedition to Northern Manchuria under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung was staying at a village in Emu county.

One day, I was on sentry duty in peasant clothes, when I saw some fifteen cavalrymen in the distance coming in our direction at a gallop. I grew tense and waited for them to approach. When they came nearer, I found that they were soldiers of the puppet "Manchukuo" army, escorting a showy sledge.

When they were within a few feet of me, I jumped out onto the road, shouting in Chinese, "na tui a?" (which unit do you belong to?)

Taken by surprise, the cavalrymen could not even think of offering resistance and ran away, scattering in all directions. I managed to get hold of two of them and thus brought the sledge to a halt.

In the sledge sat a Chinese woman of above thirty in a gorgeous dress, and in front of and behind her were piled high expensive silks and delicacies which made the shafts bend.

I learned that she was the wife of the commander of a "Manchukuo" army regiment which was stationed at a nearby town. Under cavalry escort she was going to her old home to see her mother.

I reported this at once to the duty officer. He ordered me to take them to the headquarters where Comrade Kim Il Sung was.

After changing guard, I led them to the headquarters.

The "Manchukuo" army men and the woman turned pale and began to tremble, walking hesitantly.

When I ushered them into the room, Comrade Kim Il Sung said to them with a smile: "Please, warm up a bit, it's very cold." He treated them kindly.

But the frightened looks did not readily vanish from their faces. Noticing this, he explained in a kind and convincing tone:

"We partisans never do harm to people."

The woman seemed greatly relieved to see the magnanimous, open-hearted attitude and hear the gentle words of Comrade Kim Il Sung. Although at first she was trembling and could not reply in a proper manner, she soon came to feel at ease and spoke frankly.

Comrade Kim Il Sung began by asking the woman and the two soldiers of the "Manchukuo" army about their daily life, and then explained in easy terms that both the Koreans and Chinese were suffering from the tyrannical rule of the Japanese imperialists. And so, he continued, the peoples of Korea and China should join hands with each other to drive out the Japanese from their countries and enjoy a happy life in their restored homelands.

He went on to explain convincingly that the partisan units were an army fighting against Japanese imperialism for the restoration of their own country and so the partisans never took people's lives or properties under any circumstances. He also said they did not want to fight against the "Manchukuo" army.

He continued:

"...Your husband is a regiment commander of the "Manchukuo" army, and I can't understand why he wants to fight against us, and why he serves

under the Japanese imperialists as their running dog.

"I really feel pity for your husband who is betraying his country and his nation..."

The simple yet logical words of Comrade Kim Il Sung gave her a shock, filling her heart with a strong sense of shame. The wife of the regiment commander of the puppet "Manchukuo" army was at first excited and reddened and then gradually the flush subsided. She began to sob. Perhaps it was the shame or irrepressible emotions.

She sobbed out words with difficulty. Here is an outline of her remarks.

...She had so far been interested only in her own life of ease and did not care about her country and her nation but now for the first time she became piercingly aware of her shame as a Chinese.

She only now came to realize clearly that the partisan units were a truly revolutionary army fighting for their homeland and their people.

She would do her best to awaken and urge her husband to serve his own country and nation in the future.

Now the signs of fear and uneasiness so obvious at first were gone.

How difficult it was to set the heart of a man on fire and awaken in him the voice of conscience like this, and how hard and difficult it was to instill such a fervent passion into the heart of a man, especially when he was in the service of the enemy and was prejudiced against the Koreans and the revolutionary army! Of this I was already well aware through my experiences of political work with soldiers of the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" and the puppet "Manchukuo" army.

That was why we were ourselves educated by the deep and great influence, by the strong and force-

ful persuasive power of Comrade Kim Il Sung, and we came to have a boundless respect for him from the bottom of our hearts.

He kindly told the wife of the regiment commander of the puppet "Manchukuo" army to take good care of her old mother, and then said to the two soldiers of the "Manchukuo" army that they had to escort her safely, and gave them back their weapons.

They repeatedly expressed their gratitude, and left the place with deep emotion.

Watching them go, we felt sure they would exert a great influence on the men and officers of the puppet "Manchukuo" army.

And we were not mistaken in this.

Immediately after sending off the wife of the regiment commander of the "Manchukuo" army, our unit moved to another place. So, it was only later that we learned from the people what happened after our removal.

After parting from Comrade Kim Il Sung on that day, we learned, the wife of the regiment commander did not go to her mother but went straight back to her husband. It seemed that she could no longer resist a desire to speak to her husband as soon as possible about her growing righteous indignation.

With excitement she hurried back along the snowy path on the sledge, when she ran into her husband on the way who was galloping at the head of his cavalrymen.

The regiment commander, upon hearing from his soldiers who had run back from the escorting mission, that his wife had been "captured," was rushing in all haste to her rescue with all his cavalrymen.

The "Manchukuo" army's regiment commander must have been surprised to see his wife, whom he had thought dead for certain, coming back in her sledge.

He leaped down hastily from his horse and looked her over to see if she was not injured. Seeing that not only she was quite all right but the sledge, too, remained whole just as it had been when it started on the journey, he was both doubtful and glad.

"What's the meaning of all this," asked the regiment commander.

"Your men scuttled, leaving me behind," she answered, "but the partisans protected me."

Then, she went on to tell them that though the Japanese imperialists and the "Manchukuo" army had spread a bad rumour about "communist bandits" that the latter killed everybody they met and plundered his property, it was a whopping lie as she had personally found out at the partisan unit, that General Kim Il Sung, a mere mention of whose name sent goose flesh up the backs of Japanese imperialists, had treated her like an honoured guest, even pouring out tea for her, and that he said quite reasonably that the Korean and Chinese peoples should unite and drive out the Japanese imperialists from their countries to enjoy a happy life... She was said to have related everything in detail—the words of Comrade Kim Il Sung and what she saw and heard at the partisan unit.

The soldiers of the "Manchukuo" army stood still all listening to her, some with their heads down.

The regiment commander seemed embarrassed, and said:

"...Seeing that you are back safe, the partisan unit must indeed be of men of high moral standard..."

Soon after that, he wrote to Comrade Kim Il Sung, and in the letter he said that he had regarded the partisans as "bandits" before, but his recent experience disproved his former view, and that as a Chinese he was ready to help the partisan unit conscientiously.

From that time on, the regiment of the "Manchukuo" army never attacked the partisan unit, but maintained good relations with it.

This simple event which was eloquent of the great influence exercised by Comrade Kim Il Sung on others, made me realize many things.

What a great influence Comrade Kim Il Sung had already exercised to bring about a radical turn in the course of events! Suffice it to mention such instances as the historic negotiations with Wu I-cheng's unit which Comrade Kim Il Sung visited at the risk of his life and persuaded its commander by logical arguments to agree to concerted operations with the partisan unit; many battles fought at the Tungning county seat, Luotzukou and other places, in which he ensured victories by directly commanding the joint operations with the "Chinese anti-Japanese units"; and the high morality of Comrade Kim Il Sung who saved the commander of the "Chinese national salvation army" from death amidst a shower of enemy bullets.

Even in the course of an arduous march when we had to push our way inch by inch across steep mountain ridges and snow-bound primaeval forests, suffering from hunger in a piercing cold, and even in the many-fold encirclements of the enemy, Comrade Kim Il Sung always made our hearts burn with enthusiasm and inspire us with boundless courage through his great, deep influence.

Wherever he went, he awoke the soldiers of the "Chinese anti-Japanese units" and the men and officers of the puppet "Manchukuo" army to a strong sense of national conscience.

His great, lofty ideas, his kind and magnanimous character and high virtues even made the enemy's stooges who had slipped in to do harm to us, change their attitude.

Even in the period when the enemy's desperate

struggle reached its climax, these lofty ideas and virtues of Comrade Kim Il Sung made it possible to unite such broad masses of all social strata in the Changpai area and in many parts of the country around the Fatherland Restoration Association, thereby firmly consolidating the basis of the revolution.

Today the great ideas and influence of Comrade Kim Il Sung have united the masses of all walks of life firmly around our Party and ushered in the era of the great Chullima march in which all of our people are being developed as red flowers of Communism.

Held in Deep Confidence

By BAIK HAK RIM

Comrade Kim Il Sung, though busy directing the anti-Japanese armed struggle in a vast territory and guiding the work of revolutionary organizations in northeast China and Korea under difficult and complicated conditions in the past, always found time to teach us rank and file personally how to study and live. Particularly, he always emphasized to us to trust and love our comrades, be boundlessly faithful to the people and hold revolutionary unity dearer than our own lives. We never forgot his words even for a moment and acted upon them, regarding them as principles in our life.

"... Besides workers and peasants, there are people from various walks of life in our ranks. Some have lived long in China and others have only just come from Korea. There may be among them some who think ill of us because they know little about what kind of people we are or because they have been misled by the enemy's deceptive propaganda. And also, there may exist bad fellows among them. So, we had better sharpen our vigilance. But since we are men fighting for the sake of the popular masses, we must first of all trust the masses, educate and help them. We must awaken them as soon as possi-

ble, bring them to have a correct understanding of our just cause, and fight together with them who are desirous of fighting in our ranks, firmly united and sharing sweets and bitters with them.

"This is a thing incomparably more important than to kill a few enemy soldiers with bayonets or bombs, and it is a task we must carry out without fail. You must not forget that the primary duty of us Communists is to love the people and to transform society..."

Comrade Kim Il Sung always taught and cultivated in us such spirit and attitude in life, and personally set examples in this respect.

One day a new cook called "Mother Chulgoo" was posted at the Headquarters Comrade Kim Il Sung lived in.

"It's strange that a woman like her should be assigned to the post of a cook at the Headquarters when her husband has been accused of being a member of the 'Minsaingdan' and she herself has once been tried by the masses!..." This rumour spread fast in the unit.

The members of the Q department of the Headquarters found themselves in an awkward situation.

"... What shall we do?" one of them said. "If we inform the Commander of the fact, he will certainly tell us to keep and educate her... If it were somewhere else, it wouldn't matter at all, but it won't do to have such a person near him!"

"... That's right," other comrades agreed. "Let's temporarily transfer her to some other work..."

Thus, having discussed the matter among themselves, they transferred Mother Chulgoo to some other place while Comrade Kim Il Sung was out campaigning. They decided that they themselves would act as cooks for the staff of the Headquarters as they had done before.

A few days passed and Comrade Kim Il Sung re-

turned. As he was turning over to the Q department the war booty captured from the enemy, he brought out a pattern of dress material, saying:

"... Make a new dress for Mother Chulgoo... Though an elderly woman, she seemed to be embarrassed to appear before other people in her shabby clothes... Maybe she feels diffident because she has been persecuted unjustly by evil people... Such being the case, we must help and treat her kindly as our real sister or mother..."

The Q department members of the Headquarters, listening attentively to Comrade Kim Il Sung, deeply repented of their rash action towards Mother Chulgoo. Comrade Kim Il Sung used to emphasize that one should act after a profound study of Marxism-Leninism whenever one met with difficulties and, in particular, should trust, love and help one's revolutionary comrades. Conscious that they acted against his words, they felt that they had made a great mistake. With their heads lowered, they frankly told him that they had transferred Mother Chulgoo to another place during his absence.

When he heard of this, Comrade Kim Il Sung said slowly:

"... I do not say I know everything about Mother Chulgoo myself. I only believe in her intention to fight for the revolution faithfully in the future.

"But I have one thing to tell you. All great things begin with very small ones. You should not forget that every mistake or failure originates in quite a trivial fault.

"You must conduct the work with people well, all the more so because you are revolutionaries. To work with vigilance does not mean on any account to find faults with a person, to suspect him from prejudice, and only pick out his defects.

"If we suspect each and every one we meet and only look at his faults, that will eventually lead us

to a situation in which we become the prisoners of our own deeds and suspect even ourselves. This will make it impossible for us to carry out the revolution. If we are scared at everything, believing in nothing and regarding everything as dangerous, we shall be seized with fear of being attacked by our own sentries during our sleep or of being killed by eating food prepared by others. Then, we shall be unable to breathe freely, to say nothing of carrying out the revolution. This is what they call the case of falling ill through suspicion. Let us suppose that she was a member of the 'Minsaingdan' or was influenced by it. Can't we Communists deal with her and rectify her?... If we only find superficial faults with a person and shadow him, we won't be able to discover the pus being formed inside.

"Man's essence is in the depths of his heart and so we must find out his inner trouble in order to cure him. We are not allowed to hate our own people more than the Japanese imperialists or to behave like a quack who kills a healthy person while treating a small rash.

"To remould one person and, through this, induce ten other persons to rectify themselves, and to exert influence upon hundreds and thousands of still others so as to win them over to our side—this is the working method and sincere attitude of us Communists who want to bring about great changes..."

So saying, Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed that Mother Chulgoo should be brought back to work at the Headquarters.

Here, I shall not recount how Mother Chulgoo fought after that, how faithfully she devoted her all to the revolution, for her story is well known to all.

Here I shall only briefly describe how cunning the subversive activities of the Japanese imperialists and their henchmen were and what difficulties we had to experience in our struggle to expose and

smash them.

As is generally known, under the conditions in which we had no regular army nor a solid rear, we had to wage the partisan warfare with the weapons captured from the enemy, keeping contact with and relying on the people in the enemy-occupied areas. And our struggle was an unprecedentedly hard one waged for 15 long years against the "one million strong" Japanese imperialist army.

In the early days of our partisan struggle, the enemy cooked up a puppet organization, "Minsaingdan," in a desperate attempt to undermine our unity and solidarity, and the factional elements, availing themselves of this opportunity, created mutual mistrust among our comrades by groundlessly and unjustly accusing many of them of membership in the "Minsaingdan," so as to disrupt the revolutionary forces, and ran wild to weaken the ties between the partisans and the people.

In this situation, Comrade Kim Il Sung took the initiative and tided over the grave crisis of the revolution, thus saving the revolution from a catastrophe and leading it to a high upsurge.

It happened one day when he went to the "Bayaho" village with part of his unit. Having repulsed the attack of the enemy, the unit stopped at the village for the night.

The next morning over ten comrades were laid up with a stomach ache. The medical instructor said that their illness was caused by poisoned food.

This being the case, investigation was started.

Soon after the investigation started, a young boy who was supposed to have poisoned the well was brought in. According to the comrade who brought him, the boy had been given two wrappers of poison from a certain woman who instructed him to poison the well. The boy put one of the wrappers in the well, and the other he wanted to throw into an-

other well, but could not carry out his intention.

Comrade Kim Il Sung told the boy to come nearer, and then, patting the boy on the head, asked in a calm, soothing voice: "Are you the boy who is said to have poisoned the well? That is unbelievable. Why should you have done it!... Isn't it a lie that you poisoned the well as they insist?"

The boy was trembling at first, but gradually his face showed signs of relief.

"Yes, I told a lie..." he said. "How could I do it? I never did it." The boy burst out crying, unable to continue any more.

"All right... I believe your words. You must also hate the Japanese imperialists, then how can you do such a thing?... Now, tell me what made you tell such a lie?..." he asked again.

At this, the boy, wiping away his tears with his fists, answered:

"They insisted that I had poisoned the well, so I could not but say I did. What else could I say..." Comrade Kim Il Sung sent the boy away and, turning to us, said:

"... In a sense, it's ourselves that have put poison in the well. The point is that we paid little heed to sanitation and drank from a filthy well. Therefore, we ought to bear the responsibility..."

Here is another example. It happened later during our advance to the Changpai area after our expedition to northern Manchuria under his command.

Comrade Kim Il Sung called a meeting in Mihunchen.

In accordance with the decision adopted at the meeting, the 6th Division of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was to be organized with the 2nd and 3rd companies of the 2nd Regiment as the core.

However, the 2nd and 3rd companies had not yet arrived from the Chiaoho area.

He personally proceeded to Fusung with some

of his bodyguards to take over a regiment. And there he was told by the political commissar of the 4th Division which was stationed at the place at that time, that the "best members of the companies have all been taken away and the remaining 100 odd persons, all suspected of membership in the 'Minsaingdan', are a source of headache, that they are not allowed to have more than three bullets and are kept outside the ranks of combatants."

Upon hearing that Comrade Kim Il Sung had come to Fusung, the 100 odd people who had been in low spirits and pursued by uneasiness under a false charge of having connections with the "Minsaingdan," took courage and came to meet him.

They had not met Comrade Kim Il Sung before. But by that time the fame of Comrade Kim Il Sung had spread to all parts of eastern Manchuria, and even people in southern and northern Manchuria knew his name. That was why they were all so eager to meet him and pour out their hearts to him.

Comrade Kim Il Sung decided without hesitation to take over all of the 100 odd persons into the 6th Division.

Surprised at this, the political commissar of the 4th Division brought before him a bundle of documents concerning the suspected members of the "Minsaingdan," and added before he left the place:

"Without putting these 100 odd persons to a thorough investigation over a considerable period, you could under no circumstances bring them into the ranks of combatants."

Immediately he took up the work with them, the suspected members of the "Minsaingdan."

Now embraced in his broad bosom and having listened to his kind words with the greatest attention, they all vied with each other in telling him their stories.

Under a false charge and with no one to whom

they could turn, they had been subjected to intolerable surveillance and forsaken by others. Now was there anything that they could not tell him?

Like a dam giving way under the pressure of rising water, they all opened their hearts to him. Each said that he had no connection with the "Minsaingdan," unhesitatingly pleaded innocence, and expressed his firm determination to be more loyal to the revolutionary cause.

The meeting lasted for three days.

Concluding the meeting, Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"... It is hard to pass a verdict as to which of you are members of the 'Minsaingdan', for no one can prove it. But what I want to declare to you today is that there is not a single member of the 'Minsaingdan' here at this place. It is because you all say you are not members of the 'Minsaingdan.'

"There may be some who were affiliated with it in the past. But that doesn't matter if they make a new start like those who were not affiliated, and as for those who were not affiliated, there is no need of further comment at all, for they have been suspected groundlessly when they had no connection with the 'Minsaingdan' from the first. So, from today everyone will start anew, regardless of whether he was a member of the 'Minsaingdan' or not! You comrades make a fresh start from now. Let bygones be bygones.

"... I place more confidence in your determination to fight for the revolution than in this bundle of 'documents'—'depositions,' 'findings,' and 'documentary evidences'..."

A solemn and tense atmosphere reigned in the hall.

Comrade Kim Il Sung personally set all the bundle of "documents" on fire before their eyes. With trembling lips and blinking eyes, they stood silently

watching the bundle of "documents" in flames. Hot tears were rolling down their cheeks.

The profound love and deep trust shown by Comrade Kim Il Sung for the comrades—this touched them to the core. Overwhelmed by a swelling joy of rebirth and feeling a boundless confidence and respect for Comrade Kim Il Sung, they fell to sobbing in their tracks, unable to bear any longer.

Now having been cleared of the intolerably disgraceful charge groundlessly brought against them, and feeling a joy of rebirth, they took an oath to prove their patriotism and revolutionary consistency in the practical struggle and become faithful fighters of Comrade Kim Il Sung unhesitatingly going through fire and water on the road indicated by him.

After this firm resolve, they rendered many distinguished services in battles.

Their enthusiasm was boundless that they were now proud fighters of revolution under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung who placed such trust in them! Full of courage and fighting spirit to wipe out the enemy following the dictates of their red hearts even if they had to die a 1,000 deaths, they always dashed at the enemy with bayonets in their hands and took the lead in hand-to-hand fights.

Everywhere they rushed in, the enemy fell in masses, and everywhere they led the charge, there arose shouts of triumph.

Beginning with the assault on the Fusung county seat, they participated in many battles, big and small—battles of Tateshui, Erhtaokang, Erhshihtaokou, Bochunbo, Chiensanfen and Moosan area. In these battles, they performed brilliant exploits. Particularly during the difficult, arduous march in the winter of 1938, they withstood the hard trials heroically as other partisan members.

All these battles were attended by untold suffering and difficulties. In the course of this struggle,

some comrades were wounded and some, alas, were killed even before they could see the restoration of the fatherland.

But all who were embraced in the bosom of Comrade Kim Il Sung were never daunted by these difficulties; they fought like an angry lion, admirably and with courage, showing no mercy for the enemy. They were always warm-hearted towards their revolutionary comrades and remained boundlessly faithful to the people in the course of the struggle.

After that, they all proved themselves loyal fighters of Comrade Kim Il Sung who trusted and loved the comrades. Rallied firmly like one man around him, they fought to the last with all their might for the sake of the restoration of the country and the victory of the revolution.

Whenever I recall those past days, my heart swells with fresh emotions and a new determination.

Is there anything impossible for us when we have Comrade Kim Il Sung who teaches us to trust, love and share sweets and bitters of life with all those who want to fight together with us for the sake of the fatherland and the revolution, who personally sets examples for us and places such a profound confidence in us, embracing us in his broad bosom?

Proud that we are red fighters of the Party, we are all filled with a firm determination to march forward, united more firmly around him like one man, to bring about innovations and changes on the road to the peaceful unification of the country and socialist construction.

Great Plan for Country's Restoration

By RIM CHOON CHOO

The long march from Nanhutou to Tungkiang undertaken in February 1936 was a powerful advance which lighted the way for the Korean revolution with great brilliance. It was also a significant march, because in the course of it the great plan and programme for the formation of the anti-Japanese united national front and the restoration of the homeland were elaborated.

During the march which lasted several months Comrade Kim Il Sung, oblivious of sleep and rest, engrossed himself entirely in working out plans for the future course of the revolution and immediate strategic tasks. His thoughts were always occupied with the problem of how to organize, and in what form, the anti-Japanese united national front which would carry out the tasks for the restoration of the fatherland. What should be its programme and what should be the concrete tasks of the Korean revolution that would serve as the banner of the struggle? What preparations, organizationally and ideologically, should be made for the founding of the Party? What steps are needed in the preparation for setting up a

new type of revolutionary base in the Changpai area lying adjacent to the territory of the homeland?

In the whole course of the arduous march across steep, craggy mountains, he continued to think over these problems, working out concrete plans for their materialization. And even while he was having a breathing spell during a severe battle with enemy troops, while he was walking or taking a rest, he kept thinking about them.

While the partisans were camping for the night in a deep forest amid raging snowstorms, he remained awake all through the night, sitting beside a campfire and jotting down his ideas in a note-book.

Thus, he drew up the great plan for the restoration of the fatherland, filing and retouching its wording to make every sentence and every letter radiant with patriotic ardour.

In this way the great plan of the Korean revolution was worked out. It was thus not in a study or a research room, but in the course of struggle and through hard trials that profound, original theories on the revolution were developed.

Those who had no confidence in their own strength brushed aside the Korean revolution, only crying for a "world revolution", while the stupid dogmatists were raving that the "Korean revolution should be a socialist revolution." When the 30 million people were suffering in the slough of poverty, the so-called "patriots" who had fallen away from the revolution to seek an easy life and a career were haunting the pubs, and the philistines were chanting the funeral dirges of "Japan and Korea, one community" or "The Japanese and Korean peoples come of one and the same ancestors," like monks chanting prayers. At a time when such a stifling atmosphere was pervading the country, only Comrade Kim Il Sung was visualizing the future of the country in its right perspective. Through severe struggle and trials,

through stern lessons and experience obtained at the cost of blood, he gained a clear vista leading to an independent Korea, the future of the motherland where the democratic revolution would be victorious.

He had the unerring knowledge that the very Korean revolutionaries, none other than the true sons and daughters of Korea, would have to shoulder the brilliant future of the country, that the Korean revolution should be carried out by the Korean people themselves.

That was why he gave himself heart and soul to mapping out the future of the Korean revolution, oblivious of sleep and rest and in disregard of difficulties. He was fearless and knew no fatigue.

The plan of Comrade Kim Il Sung attained greater maturity and was polished at the meeting held at Mihunchen, Antu county, and it was consummated at Tungkiang, Fusung county. His great plan and profound, creative theories on the restoration of the fatherland became known far and wide among the people only after the Tungkiang meeting.

The Tungkiang meeting held on May 1-15, 1936 further concretized the strategic line set forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Nanhutou meeting and discussed practical matters relating to the decisions of the Nanhutou meeting.

* * *

The first problem taken up at the meeting was the establishment of a new partisan base in connection with the Korean People's Revolutionary Army's advance to border areas.

This was of great practical importance for independent solution of a number of problems arising from the Korean revolution. Without going nearer Korea and pounding the enemy with armed force, thereby

bracing the spirit of the popular masses and arousing them to the mass struggle, it was unthinkable to carry into effect the great plan and programme for the restoration of the fatherland. This sacred and immense task rested on the shoulders of the Korean Communists led by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

But not all comrades had a full understandnig of the correctness and wisdom of this new line.

At the Yaoyingkou meeting held in 1935 it was decided to disband the permanent partisan bases in eastern Manchuria in the light of the prevailing situation and to wage the armed struggle in broader regions. Tremendous success was being achieved in the armed struggle in accordance with this decision. It was just at this time that the problem of setting up new partisan bases was raised again. This came as a surprise to some comrades.

In this connection Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"... The partisan bases—liberated areas—set up in eastern Manchuria in the past played a big role in the work of the Korean Communists for expanding and strengthening the ranks of anti-Japanese armed partisans and rallying anti-Japanese-minded masses. We established partisan bases in areas that were easy for us to defend with meagre arms and difficult for the enemy to attack even with modern arms; we defended those partisan bases and the revolutionary masses with arms and delivered serious blows to the enemy..."

Emphasizing the tremendous role played bv the partisan bases in eastern Manchuria, Comrade Kim Il Sung went on to say:

"... It was fully justified and very essential for the development of the revolution that we had preserved and expanded the revolutionary force and protected the people by establishing the fixed partisan bases—liberated areas in the forests easy to defend, at a time when the enemy was perpetrating mass

slaughter everywhere and trying frantically to exterminate our revolutionary force.

"...But later the enemy adopted the tactics of blocking the activity of our partisan units, encircling and attempting to annihilate us by mobilizing large force tens of thousands strong. On the other hand, the enemy was pursuing a so-called "return-to-allegiance policy," intimidating and threatening those sections of the masses who had weak revolutionary consciousness. For this purpose they set up collective settlements.

"... Under these circumstances, to stick to the fixed partisan bases meant courting self-destruction. In order to preserve and strengthen our force for a more decisive battle and to administer heavy blows in succession to the enemy, we disbanded the partisan bases in eastern Manchuria and launched out into wider regions.

"... But today it has become necessary to establish a partisan base of a new type to cope with the prevailing situation. The reason we should do so is that in view of the present new balance of forces between the enemy and us, as well as from the strategic and tactical point of view, it is both impossible and unnecessary to organize bases according to the old methods and forms.

"... The partisan base of a new type needed for us now should be so favourably located as to make it possible for us first of all to organize and lead the revolutionary movement of Korea as a whole, and at the same time, it should be set up in places which will offer us the possibility of free movement and unrestricted guerrilla activities in wide areas. For such places we can choose the northernmost areas of Korea around Mt. Baikdoo along the rivers Amrok and Dooman, and the areas embracing Changpai, Linkiang and Fusung counties.

"... Taking advantage of the natural vantage

ground in these vast forests, we should set up secret camps and organize secret revolutionary organizations on a broad scale among the popular masses living in the enemy-ruled districts within those areas.

"... Then, the new partisan base will become an impregnable fortress located at a vantage ground in the Baikdoo forests and backed up by the secret activities of the local revolutionary organizations. Operating from this base and relying upon the revolutionary organizations, we will penetrate deep into the country, spreading the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle with irresistible force.

"... This means that the base which will be set up in the area around Mt. Baikdoo will literally be turned into the fortress of the Korean revolution.

"... The fortress will enable us to command deftly the army and render the enemy helpless by applying the strategy of preterhuman agility...

"Neither guns and machine guns nor planes and bombs of the Japanese imperialists boasting of their 'invincible imperial army,'" Comrade Kim Il Sung continued, "will be able to destroy the fortress of our revolution and we can make great success in the work of organizing and directing the Korean revolution as a whole when the partisans build up a fortress in this natural vantage ground, surrounding it with broad networks of secret organizations, and apply correctly the guerrilla tactics of preterhuman swiftness."

His words gave those present at the meeting a clear understanding of all problems and firm self-confidence. They felt they could look ahead clearly. Some comrades who at first could not correctly understand the significance of the creation of a new partisan base, came to realize that it represented an epoch-making step forward in the purposeful revolutionary activities of the Korean Communists to settle

the questions of the Korean revolution independently. Therefore, they all approved of the idea.

Then, the meeting discussed the problems of founding the Fatherland Restoration Association.

Comrade Kim Il Sung submitted to the meeting for final consideration the historic 10-point programme of the Fatherland Restoration Association and the declaration of its establishment which he had drawn up, devoting all his energies during the arduous march and severe battles.

The 10-point programme of the Fatherland Restoration Association reflected the reality of Korea and the future of the revolution as clearly as a mirror. It gave profound Marxist-Leninist analysis to the revolutionary situation, the socio-economic conditions of our country and the balance of forces between the classes in the 1930's; it defined the character, tasks, strategic and tactical principles of the Korean revolution. It was fully in accord with the fundamental interests of the working masses including the workers and peasants and with the common national interests of all sections of patriotic people.

The attendants of the meeting saw for the first time in the history of Korea the path of revolution illumined by the bright light of Marxism-Leninism. Their hearts were full of pride and joy that now the Korean people and the Korean Communists possessed an explicit programme of their own which opened before them vistas to victory in the revolution and would enable them to march confidently and triumphantly along the highway of revolution. There might be temporary partial setbacks, difficulties and sacrifices on the highway. But, now they had a goal for whose realization they should fight consistently without vacillation and disappointment no matter what difficulties they might encounter. They could visualize vividly with their mind's eye a democratic, independendent Korea where all people would work

and live happily as equal and proud masters of the state power, masters of the country.

The attendants of the meeting gave enthusiastic approval to the 10-point programme of the Fatherland Restoration Association, the great programme of the Korean revolution.

They were no less stirred when the inaugural declaration of the Fatherland Restoration Association was discussed.

Expressing burning indignation at the fact that the country, a beautiful land of three thousand *ri* which our people held dear and developed down through the generations, was invaded by the Japanese imperialist robbers and the sagacious Korean nation subjected to oppression and exploitation like slaves, the inaugural declaration of the Fatherland Restoration Association stressed that patriotism and the ardent spirit of independence of the Korean nation were ablaze at that time as they had been before. The declaration's stirring spirit of independence was brought home to the hearts of the attendants of the meeting.

The declaration also laid emphasis on the brilliant history of the anti-Japanese struggle waged by our nation. It was only a handful, the 5 traitors of 1905, who accepted the ruin of Korea. But, the entire Korean people have continued their victorious struggle against brigandish Japanese imperialism—a righteous volunteers' struggle, March First Uprising, nation-wide strikes, particularly the brilliant anti-Japanese armed struggle. Patriots of all social sections are fighting selflessly, shedding blood within and without the country.

This part of the declaration inspired everyone with national pride, self-confidence and a burning fighting spirit:

"... The independence and liberation of the country will certainly be achieved if the entire Korean

people unite as one, join the anti-Japanese fatherland restoration front and work actively to further its aims.

"Those who have money can donate money, those who have provisions can contribute provisions and those who have skill and strength can offer skill and strength..."

The declaration expressing confidence in victory and proclaiming the founding of the Fatherland Restoration Association, its concluding part passionately called on everyone to join and fight in the Fatherland Restoration Association, an organization of the anti-Japanese united national front for the independence movement of Korea. The concluding part inspired growing fighting spirit and national conscience in all those present.

The inaugural declaration won unanimous, enthusiastic approval. The adoption of the declaration was followed by discussions as to in whose name the declaration should be published.

All the attendants of the meeting suggested that the declaration be issued in the name of Comrade Kim Il Sung. But, Comrade Kim Il Sung objected. He said:

"... The Fatherland Restoration Association should take a national form because it must rally all the anti-Japanese forces of the Korean people around it. The initiator of the declaration, therefore, must be a well-known elderly comrade of great reputation who has participated in Korea's independence movement since the righteous volunteers' struggle and March First Uprising..."

The attendants of the meeting took his view well into consideration. But, after all, it was agreed unanimously that there was none who was better known among various strata of the Korean people than Comrade Kim Il Sung and could lead the whole nation.

Thus, Comrade Kim Il Sung made public the in-

augural declaration of the Fatherland Restoration Association under the assumed name of Kim Dong Myung on May 5, 1936, when the meeting was still in session.

The meeting elected Comrade Kim Il Sung Chairman of the Fatherland Restoration Association and made public the Association's 10-point programme.

As Chairman of the Fatherland Restoration Association, Comrade Kim Il Sung dwelt on the importance of the formation of the Fatherland Restoration Association and on the problem of further expanding and strengthening the network of its organizations. He spoke to this effect:

"... The formation of the Fatherland Restoration Association will be of tremendous significance in the anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle of the Korean people and, more, will make a great contribution to the international anti-fascist popular front movement as a link in it.

"... We should do all we can to expand the network of the organizations of the Fatherland Restoration Association and unite broad anti-Japanese forces around the armed units.

"... What we must bear in mind in this respect is that we should, first of all, strengthen the organizational and ideological unity of the ranks of Communists and the working class and enhance their leading role in the united front. Along with this, the programme of the Fatherland Restoration Association should be deeply inculcated into the minds of the popular masses of all strata. To this end, the specific features of the local population must be meticulously taken into consideration..."

Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized that in forming, expanding and consolidating the organizations of the association, whether the work was to be done openly or in secrecy should be decided after seriously taking into consideration the specific features of

the local population concerned. He said there were things that had to be borne in mind when we formed the association's branches, expanded and strengthened the network of its organizations in areas inhabited by Koreans in northeast China as well as within Korea. He said as follows:

"... In the first place the same name should not be used for all organizations. There must be distinction between the areas where the socialist enlightenment movement has developed and the areas where the nationalistic tendancy is strong. The association's branches should be given different names—Fatherland Restoration Association in one place, National-Liberation Union in another place, and anti-Japanese Union in yet another place..."

Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized time and again that in expanding and consolidating the organizational network of the united front, we should work well and properly with the working class, the peasant masses and people from all walks of life. Particularly, making a scientific analysis of the complicated political and social features of Korea and citing detailed instance, he indicated the orientation and the method of work in dealing with the different strata.

Taking nationalists as an example, he said as follows:

"... We are to distinguish the upper crust from the lower masses of nationalists. We should strictly divide even the upper crust into two categories: Those who are comparatively reliable and aspire after progress and those who are not.

"... If we regard them all in the same light without distinction, we will lose even those people with whom we can work hand in hand.

"... This means a great loss. We must, therefore, make a conscious approach to those people with whom we can co-operate, and influence them through persistent explanation and persuasion.

"... It is advisable to start with introducing to them our forerunners who fought for the country in the past, and gradually rouse their pent-up anti-Japanese sentiments. And we must see to it that they join the Fatherland Restoration Association of their own accord with national pride. At the same time we must teach them to hate the renegade nationalists by exerting constant influence upon them through the examples of us Communists.

"... In this way, we must make them realize that we Communists are genuine patriots..."

With regard to the religious men, he said:

"...Religion is like opium. And opium-eating cannot be remedied in a day. Religious men, believing the creed of their religion to be 'truth', are ready to devote their life to it. They can be compared with opium-eaters who find it very difficult to pass a day without eating opium.

"...If we are tactless and start with preaching to them that religion is a superstition, how will they react? They will bow their head immediately, close their eyes and pray to God 'Oh, Lord! Save my soul from the ordeal of devils and satans!'

"... It is a foolish attempt to force them to forsake in a day their religious belief which has taken deep root in the course of long years. Hence, we must concentrate our efforts on awakening their national pride. In this, we should not turn to the upper crust, for it is advisable to work with the lower masses and ordinary believers, particularly the youths of sensitive nature. We must tell them that a religious man also needs his homeland, that, in fact, no religious freedom is guaranteed in a colonial country and that religious freedom can be ensured only when the country attains independence.

"... We must tell the Christians how their fellow believers with a national conscience fought bravely for the independence of Korea after its occupation

by the Japanese imperialists, tell the Buddhist believers how St. Susan, Samyungdang and many other patriotic Buddhist monks fought valorously against the Japanese aggressors in the Imjin Patriotic War.

"...We must acquaint the believers in Chundogyo with the peasant uprising (the Kabo peasant war) led by Jun Bong Joon as well as the anti-Japanese movements of their fellow believers, and must rouse the believers in Daijonggyo to burn with righteous indignation of the Korean nation by telling them how a nation in white (the Korean nation) with a long, brilliant history of 4,000 years can tolerate such inhuman maltreatment and contempt under the tyranny of the despicable Japanese colonialists.

"... We must thus vigorously develop the organizational work of gradually rallying even the religious men around the anti-Japanese united national front..."

In view of the actual situation at that time when various religions were wide spread in Hwanghai and Pyungan Provinces and other parts of Korea, and of the fact that there were no small number of people connected with them, Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized as one of the most important duties confronting the Korean Communists to enlist the conscientious believers into the anti-Japanese united national front.

Comrade Kim Il Sung proceeded to teach them in a concrete way rules and methods of work with women, youths, children and various "Chinese anti-Japanese units."

Then, emphasizing the need of widely employing the legal organizations and groups recognized by the enemy in the work of expanding and strengthening the organizational network of the Fatherland Restoration Association, Comrade Kim Il Sung outlined concrete methods of work within the legal organiza-

tions in the following manner.

"... Beginning with evening classes, athletic meets, social gatherings, associations of supporters for the school, religious organizations, associations for rural development, etc., we must extensively utilize even reactionary organizations set up by the enemy. Going in among the lower masses in such organizations, we Communists must help them realize the situation of their nation and further awaken their class consciousness through persistent explanation and persuasion and draw them into the anti-Japanese united national front.

"...This is a very difficult work requiring circumspection. Revolutionary history tells us that a more trifle may expose the secret of the organization. Bearing in mind the lessons of bloody struggles waged in such cases, we must not relax our revolutionary vigilance for a moment..."

Comrade Kim Il Sung stressed the need of developing more extensively, and raising to a new high, the mass political propaganda work in connection with the anti-Japanese united national front, and posed some questions of principle to be observed in carrying out the propaganda and agitation work by illegal means.

As to the method of propaganda and agitation, roughly he expressed himself in the following words.

"... What is needed for our propaganda and agitation work to grasp the hearts of the masses? It is of primary importance that the propagandists themselves have a concrete understanding of the real situation and characteristics of those to whom their propaganda is addressed. If they have insufficient or no understanding of them, their propaganda and agitation work will suffer from subjectivism and formalism, serving no purpose whatever.

"... Oral or written propaganda, visual aids, newspapers, weeklies and monthlies must be set out

in lucid language with rich content.

"... These materials should not be put out in redundant and difficult words. Though of few words, if a propaganda material is easy for the people to understand and moves their hearts, it will be far more powerful than thousands of materials, written in difficult language with poor content. Particularly, in view of the utmost secrecy of our work, a handbill difficult to understand and inconvenient to carry is by no means advisable..."

As regards the content of propaganda and agitation, Comrade Kim Il Sung indicated the correct orientation concerning the distinction between the content to be delivered among the Party and the revolutionary army and that intended for the broad anti-Japanese popular masses.

"... The main subjects within the Party and the revolutionary army should be principles of our strategy and tactics based on Marxism-Leninism, the guidance of the revolutionary masses and method of work with them, the theory on building the Party and revolutionary organizations, the formation of the anti-Japanese united national front and the Party's guidance of the front, etc.

"... On the other hand, in our propaganda work with the anti-Japanese popular masses, we must explain and inculcate the contents of the 10-point programme of the Fatherland Restoration Association according to their different social standings. At the same time, we must acquaint the people with the achievements made by the Soviet Union in socialist construction and her might, lead them to support and protect the Soviet Union and instil in them a firm conviction of victory in the revolution.

"... It is also important to strengthen class education and the work of disseminating the ideas of scientific socialism among the masses of workers and peasants and the revolutionary intellectuals. Only

by so doing can we ensure the leading role of the proletariat in the anti-Japanese united national front..."

The wise and concrete instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung to organize and expand the Fatherland Restoration Association as an organization of the anti-Japanese united national front, the 10-point programme and the inaugural declaration of the Fatherland Restoration Association presented us a grand and full picture of the future of the Korean revolution, making every detail of it tangible and clear to everybody.

The attendants of the meeting were again compelled to admire the outstanding Marxist-Leninist views and intelligence of Comrade Kim Il Sung, his correct analysis of and deep-going insight into the political situation and class relations in Korea and his ardent patriotism.

The attendants of the meeting, feeling dignity and pride in the fact that the Korean people had their wise leader of the revolution, and firmly confident of the victory in the revolution, gave their ardent support to his strategic policy on organizing the Fatherland Restoration Association.

In conclusion, the meeting discussed concretely the question of founding a Marxist-Leninist Party in Korea.

The Korean Communists headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung waged from the initial stage of their anti-Japanese armed struggle a tenacious struggle to wipe out the evil consequences of the factional strife among the sectarian elements, the ulcer in the communist movement in Korea, to do away with the survivals of a tendency to rely on others without any self-reliant spirit, to consolidate unity and solidarity in the Communist ranks and to bring up and strengthen the nuclei of communist leadership.

The loss in our revolution caused by the "Left"

adventurism of the factional elements and narrow-minded nationalists who drove the popular masses into reckless uprisings in the early 1930's, the serious loss inflicted upon the communist movement in Korea by the manoeuvres of the factionists who had conducted the struggle against "Minsaingdan" in an ultra-left manner since 1933—surmounting all these repeated grave trials, Comrade Kim Il Sung firmly adhered to his independent views and self-reliant spirit as a Korean Communist, and thus saved the revolution from a crisis and brought up and trained the revolutionary leading core.

Such being the case, the Comintern also duly appraised the line of Comrade Kim Il Sung on founding a party and the work of Korean Communists, inspiring and encouraging them rapidly to promote the work of founding a party.

Under these conditions, the meeting discussed the matter of further concretizing the line on founding a party advanced by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Nanhutou meeting. At the meeting he elucidated the question of making concrete preparations for founding the party.

While stressing the necessity of firmly building up the Communist nuclei, he said:

"... The founding of a party calls for a definite organizational skeleton. This organizational skeleton consists of the leading nuclei of Communists steeled and tested in an actual struggle. Accordingly we Communists must further push ahead with the work of expanding and consolidating the ranks of leading nuclei, the basis for founding a party..."

Comrade Kim Il Sung then emphasized the need of steadily expanding and consolidating the Party organization. He said:

"...We must constantly expand and strengthen the Party organization by enlisting in the Party more advanced elements from among the workers, peasants

and revolutionary intellectuals who are steeled and tested in the partisan and anti-Japanese revolutionary struggles. This work should be carried on not only in the partisan ranks and in northeast China; it should be actively carried on even in the homeland.

"... So far we have failed to carry on this work properly among the progressive workers, peasants and intellectuals at home. Proceeding from this, we must first set up organizational networks of the Party at home, decisively overcome factionalism and "Left" and Right deviations, the ulcer in the past communist movement at home, and rally the Communists at home organizationally..."

Laying stress on bringing up and training the enlisted Party members into indomitable revolutionary fighters, Comrade Kim Il Sung proposed the organization of a Party working committee for the unified guidance of the Party organizations to be formed at home, as well as of the work of founding a party.

His words on preparing for the founding of a party and particularly his well-advised and wise policy of organizing Party organizations at home and of expanding and strengthening them for the purpose of laying the organizational foundation of a Marxist-Leninist Party to be organized in the future enjoyed unanimous support.

The meeting also discussed the problem of reorganizing the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, and, in this connection, the proposal of Comrade Kim Il Sung—his independent stand to make a contribution to the world revolution by successfully carrying out the Korean revolution—was adopted unanimously, enjoying support and admiration of both the Korean and Chinese revolutionary comrades.

* * *

The grand programmatic policy on the Korean revolution proposed by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the

Tungkiang meeting not only brought about an epochal turning-point in the revolutionary development in the 30's but also clearly illumined the road to the democratic development which Korea should follow after the victory of the revolution.

On the basis of this policy, units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army set up a new partisan base in the border area of Korea, expanded and reinforced the Party organizations at home and in the Changpai area, extensively developed the work of organizing the anti-Japanese united national front such as the Fatherland Restoration Association and National Liberation Union and thus brought about a great upsurge in the revolution by fully controlling and guiding the Korean revolutionary movement.

They converted Shangkangkou, Chungkangkou and Hsiakangkou in Changpai county into revolutionary districts and, in these districts alone, enlisted tens of thousands of people in the Fatherland Restoration Association; furthermore they rallied tens of thousands of the anti-Japanese masses at home around the Korean National Liberation Union, Anti-Japanese Union, etc., waging an anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle on an extensive mass basis.

The Koreans came to see clearly the future of their country in the grand programme set forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung and, with pride and firm confidence in victory in the revolution as harbingered by the torchlight of fatherland restoration which blazed high at Bochunbo and in the repeated victories attained by the People's Revolutionary Army in the border areas, came out in great number to join the anti-Japanese front.

The programmatic policy of Comrade Kim Il Sung ushered in an era, of which the Korean nation is boundlessly proud, opening the glorious pages of the 30's, a brilliant period in our revolutionary history.

It is thanks to this grand programme that the Ko-

rean Communists could greet the brilliant day of motherland's restoration, displying indomitableness in the arduous, protracted anti-Japanese armed struggle, and it is thanks to the foundation of such scientific strategy and tactics that the Korean people could have successfully proceeded with the building of a new society after liberation.

That we could found and consolidate our glorious Party under the complicated conditions created immediately after the liberation when the anti-Party factionists, alien elements, parochialists, renegades to the revolution, and all shades of philistines came out under the mask of patriots and leaders, that we could successfully carry out the democratic reforms, firmly holding in our hands the genuine people's power and holding high the 20-point platform based on the 10-point programme of the Fatherland Restoration Association and bring about the brilliant results of today in socialist construction, are all attributable to the fact that the Communists, under the wise guidance of such a great leader as Comrade Kim Il Sung and under his leadership, were provided with the great programme as far back as the 30's, and to the bedrock foundation formed in the course of the protracted anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Under His Warm Care

By KIM DONG GYOO

I was wounded in January 1936 in the battle of Parikou and evacuated to the army hospital at the secret camp in Tachenchang. The camp belonged to the Second Army and there were an army hospital, an arsenal and other kinds of rear facilities.

I spent over five months in this secret camp undergoing medical treatment. My right arm which had been maimed by a bullet was restored to its normal function and the open wound, too, healed up thanks to the sincere treatment of the surgeons. And I was impatiently waiting for an order to return to my former unit in action.

One day in May when even the thick forest was breathing the breath of spring, I was informed of my assignment to the Sixth Division under the personal command of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The glad news made my heart leap with joy. And my joy was immeasurably great, now that I was allowed to fight under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung for whom I had had a great reverence for a long time. I made myself ready for departure at once.

I was to travel together with five other comrades. Among them were Choi Gyung Suk, a member of

the Sixth Division who had been wounded in action and hospitalized, Kim Jung Sook and Choi Heui Sook who were also assigned to the Sixth Division as members of its sewing team.

Having prepared some provisions—we had been suffering from shortage of food—we left the Tachen-chang secret camp for the Fusung area where the Sixth Division was operating. We had a long, arduous journey before us, but none of us expressed any misgivings. Our only thought was to arrive as soon as possible at our destination—the unit commanded by Comrade Kim Il Sung. This thought spurred us on in surmounting hardships and pushing our way forward. It was one afternoon several days after we left the secret camp. I felt a fever, accompanied by violent headache, gripping my whole body. But I did not show the slightest sign of it, for it would have caused anxiety to my companions. Enduring the pains, I followed them. But gradually my eyes grew misty and my legs began to tremble.

Soon, I sank to the ground at last. It was an attack of horrible typhoid fever. I was alarmed. The thought that my illness would delay the journey of my companions who were in a great hurry, was more unbearable than the racking pains of fever. I could find no proper words to apologize to them, I made up my mind that I must not delay them. I said I was all right and had stumbled on something and fallen. And I struggled to walk on but I had taken only a few steps when I reeled and fell down again.

My companions raised me in their arms, and all of them heaved a heavy sigh. They could do nothing in the deep mountains, and on top of it all, we had already run out of provisions. The only way out was to reach our unit as quickly as possible.

Though they knew well that typhoid fever was

infectious, my companions carried me on their backs by turns and nursed me with the greatest care.

Two women comrades, including Kim Jung Sook, cooked better soup for me with more tender, tasty greens than were served to others. Whenever they came across a stream, they caught crawfish and gave it to me only, saying that it was good to cure my disease.

Days of hardships continued, and it began to rain heavily. To make things worse, my disease began to infect other comrades. Choi Gyung Suk who had always been sitting up with me was the first to be stricken with the disease. He used to say that nobody could save his comrade if he cared for himself first.

The next victim was Comrade Kang who had joined the partisan ranks at the Pataokou gold mine. Now we had no alternative but to discontinue our march and put up a thatched hut in the mountain to stay in.

Licking our parched lips, we patients cried for cold water. One morning the comrades who had been watching us anxiously, left the hut to look for some grain. They had thought that if they were lucky enough to find a charcoal burner's shed, they could get a few handfuls of grain there.

But soon they came hurry-skurry back to the hut. They had found the enemy's "punitive troops" just at the foot of the mountain. The situation urged us to quit the place at once.

All day long we pushed our way through the forests, the sick who could not walk being carried on the backs of others. When we had barely managed to get out of the enemy's reach, even the healthy persons, to say nothing of the sick, could hardly move any more.

We had not eaten a single grain for about a week and our faces were all pale and swollen.

It was clear that if that state of things continued we would all perish in the mountains in a few days.

"We cannot remain sitting here like this!" We thought to ourselves. "We must reach our unit by all means."

The only thing we could do was to inform the unit of our situation as quickly as possible.

Thus, after much discussion it was agreed to dispatch a Chinese comrade, the healthiest of us all, to the unit to establish contact. But, just at that time there came a rustling sound from somewhere.

We strained our ears and looked around. Obviously, it was the sound of approaching footsteps. The enemy's "punitive detachment" was coming, we thought.

"If we have to die, we must make them pay dearly for our blood!"

There appeared on the face of everyone grim resolution. At once, we all took up arms and undid the safety catch.

Just at that moment, to our astonishment, two oxen appeared in front of us.

We looked at each other doubting our own eyes, for it was all too unexpected.

But they were really oxen.

"Oxen in such a deep mountain as this? How could it be!"

But the next moment, we saw a man coming up after the oxen.

"He's our comrade!" shouted Kim Jung Sook, dashing out in front of the hut.

"You are here!" exclaimed the stranger upon seeing us. "And I have been searching for you so long." He rushed to us and embraced us warmly. He turned out to be an orderly belonging to the Sixth Division.

"Commander Kim Il Sung has sent me to locate your whereabouts and guide you," he said.

"Sent by Comrade Commander, you say?" We asked amazed, for we thought at first that he was on his way somewhere to fulfil a liaison duty. His words came as such surprise we just stood there staring at him stupidly.

The orderly unloaded a sack of flour from the back of one of the oxen, and then began to tell us how he was sent to us.

* * *

After we had left the secret camp in Tachenchang for the Sixth Division, Comrade Kim Il Sung was informed of the fact through an orderly from the Army.

As we did not arrive even after the expected date and our arrival had been overdue for many days, he was very much concerned about us. One day he summoned the orderly of the headquarters and said:

"Something must have happened to them. I think they are having a hard time of it somewhere in a cave or in the forests; they set out on a perilous journey without clearly knowing our whereabouts and their health was not so good. Their wounds must have taken a turn for the worse."

Then he instructed the orderly who was well acquainted with the geographical features of the locality to go out in search of us. In addition, he told the orderly in detail that if we were in a serious condition, he should knock at the house of some farmer and ask for assistance in treating us.

As the orderly related this, we could not utter a single word, touched so deeply by the warm solicitude of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

On his way to us, the orderly had met with partisan members who had been out on a mission to get provisions and were on their way back with the oxen.

Upon seeing the animals the orderly thought

that they would be more serviceable for us than anything else. And that was why he had brought the two oxen with him.

We spent another few days at the place, during which our strength was restored thanks to the food sent us by Comrade Kim Il Sung. Then, we set out on our journey, the weak riding on the backs of the oxen.

Several days later, guided by the orderly, we arrived at the house of a farmer designated by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The house was located at a lonely place. Old Kang, master of the house, built a thatched hut in the mountain exclusively for us. He hid us in the hut and looked after us.

After our arrival Old Kang entrusted all the household affairs to his son and devoted himself entirely to our treatment. We were very grateful for his warm-hearted care for us. But we thought he should not occupy himself wholly with our treatment, for he was eking out a poor living.

One day we told the old man that since our disease had turned the corner, he should go back to his farm work.

"Why should I neglect you whom General Kim Il Sung treasures more dearly than anything," he replied. He would not listen to us. He told us that shortly before his son (a man who, at the request of the Sixth Division, was engaged in supplying the partisan units with necessary goods) had been to the Sixth Division. He was received by Comrade Kim Il Sung, who told him that his house would be visited by partisans soon and that these partisans might possibly be patients. Then Comrade Kim Il Sung gave him some money to use as expenses for the food and medicine of the patients, asking him to take good care of them.

Old Kang was very proud and elated that he

had been entrusted with a task personally by Comrade Kim Il Sung. He insisted that the patient of typhoid fever should be taken good care of even after the crisis was over to accelerate his convalescence. And every day he went up and down the mountain to collect honey. He walked about all day long in the mountain to find and collect honey from wild honey combs. At each meal he served us with honey.

Proficient in traditional medicine, Old Kang acupunctured us every morning. In the evening, he went angling and brought back fish for us. And he served us with fish broth every day. He did all this for our early recovery.

Thanks to the profound solicitude shown by Comrade Kim Il Sung and to the sincere attendance of Old Kang, our health improved day by day; at last, Comrades Choi Gyung Suk and Kang left the house for the unit, and I was left alone.

Nothing was more unbearable than to live separated from the unit and comrades-in-arms. The more so when one was left behind the enemy line, attended with constant danger. Without a guard, no one could tell that something unexpected might not happen at any moment.

Nevertheless, under the warm solicitude of Comrade Kim Il Sung, I always felt as if he was close by me and did not feel lonely.

Though the food situation was difficult at the partisan unit, Comrade Kim Il Sung, worried about my poor appetite, sent me flour and sugar through orderlies. He also sent me words of consolation.

He even reminded me in detail of what I should give attention to: I must never be off guard simply because I was in the mountain but be watchful of the enemy's movements; if there was any sign of the enemy coming near, I must not sleep in the hut but sleep outside, for it was not cold; and I must under no circumstances drink cold water since drinking

cold water was the worst thing for a typhoid-fever patient.

I got better day by day. And I began to strengthen my legs by going up and down the mountains, while making preparations for departure for the unit as soon as possible.

One day I was visited by a partisan member. He came on the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung to take me to the unit.

So deeply moved by the warm affection of Comrade Kim Il Sung for an ordinary partisan that on my way to the unit I could not keep back my tears, which I wiped away unobserved.

Upon arrival at the unit, I immediately went to see Comrade Kim Il Sung. As I stood before him, events of those two months after our departure from the army hospital in Tachenchang, months so beset with hardships, came back to my mind.

When I reported to him on my safe arrival, Comrade Kim Il Sung rose from his seat and came towards me. Grasping my hand firmly, he said with a broad smile; "What hardships you have gone through on the way!" Then he measured me up and down before he inquired in detail if I was now all right, if Old Kang treated me well, whether I had a good appetite, and if I could keep pace with the march of the unit.

"Comrade Commander! I am now quite well and prepared for discharging any assignment," I replied, unable to suppress the earnest desire to take part in actions.

Having heard my answer, he told me that partisan units were soon to advance to the Changpai area and that in view of the stepped-up movements of the enemy troops, it would be dangerous to lag behind, and so I had to overcome difficulties and keep up with the march of the unit. And he instructed me to march with the 7th Regiment for the time

being, adding that I would not be given assignment until my health was completely recovered.

Then Comrade Kim Il Sung at once called in the commander of the 7th Regiment and ordered him to issue me a new uniform and not to burden me with heavy loads during the march and take care of me well.

"So, Commander Kim Il Sung is a man like this!" I exclaimed in the depths of my mind.

People usually say that a great man is apt to be indifferent to trifling matters. But can there be any greater man than he? I asked myself. To tell the truth, I had only known him before as a great commander who delivered wholesale death to the enemy in every battle. But during the two months of the arduous journey to the unit, I clearly realized through my personal experience that he was a man who was always profoundly concerned about the life of all partisan members, always caring about their hardships and tribulations and taking timely measures to help them.

* * *

This is one of the many stories about him, which I personally experienced. Anyone who ever fought under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung during the 15 years of arduous armed struggle against Japanese imperialism will be able to tell many stories of this kind about him. I want to say without hesitation:

"A great leader, a real people's leader, makes no distinction between great matters and trifles."

This is a firm belief I formed way back 26 years ago when I met Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Talks with Women Partisans

By KIM MYUNG HWA

It was the summer of 1936 that the detachment I belonged to was active in a district of Fusung county. Several of my comrades and I once took a short rest in a hut with Commander Kim Il Sung. It was the house of a young Chinese married couple. They welcomed us cordially into the small room with a low ceiling.

We had decided to rest there and wait for the return of the partisans who had gone to a locality for political work.

When it was evening the host who had been working outside, began to bustle about preparing the meal, going in and out of the kitchen, drawing water and doing other things.

But his wife kept on sewing in a corner of the room, pieces of worn clothing scattered all around her. At most, she would move to open or shut the door, or walk across the courtyard with unsteady gait. She seldom went out of the gate.

She was pale and, whenever she walked, her steps were faltering, since her feet had been dwarfed through binding.

It, of course, was not the first time to see women

like her in the vast land of northeast China. But looking at the Chinese woman in the small room that day, I felt pity stirring anew in my heart.

With her feet bound tightly, how painful it must be and how much she must be longing to run about as others, I thought.

In the disabled figure of the Chinese woman I seemed to see the sad fate of all the suffering women fettered to the old, evil feudal custom. My heart constricted with pain.

"What do you think of that woman?" asked Comrade Commander. Then, without waiting for our reply he said: "It is really a shocking and disastrous thing."

His remarks added to my painful sentiments. I did not know how to reply.

Then, he went on in a calm voice, looking at us alternately: "....She cannot move about freely outside. What freedom has she got and how can she find life joyful or worthwhile to live? This cannot be regarded as a phenomenon showing the miserable fate of a Chinese woman alone. Back in our native land our mothers and sisters, too, fettered to the Japanese imperialist yoke and the old, evil feudal custom, are suffering no less pain, humiliated and denied even elementary human rights.

"This is a shocking evil left over by the old society. Insult to the rights of women is an insult to the whole human society and mankind. Under the old social system it is out of the question for the entire people to enjoy a happy life. To ensure a happy life for the entire people and social liberation for the women, it is necessary to build a new society and emancipate the women from the feudal yoke..."

Then, Comrade Commander began to talk about the miserable life of innumerable women of Korea, who under the pressure of poverty were sold for a petty sum of money and compelled to leave their

homes, or were sold as child bride or had to serve as maid slaves for the rich from their early childhood to experience all sorts of maltreatment and humiliation.

Many things I had witnessed and felt as a child came back to my mind. In the village where I had spent my girlhood, too, survivals of the feudal custom had prevailed and the women had been deprived of the liberty to go out of their doors.

I had often seen girls of my own and neighbouring villages who had lived in poverty without even elementary human rights, being sold off and leaving their homes in tears.

I could not restrain a burning hatred against oppression by men of power and inhuman outrages by the exploiters, which were the cause of the distress.

Other comrades sitting in the room, too, were all lost in deep thought.

Comrade Commander, stroking the head of Comrade Yun Sook who was then a member of the Children's Corps, continued:

"...You are really happy, fighting side by side with men with guns on your shoulders... What can be more worthwhile than this!..."

His words inspired us all with a high sense of responsibility and a soaring pride, and everyone of us pledged to fight more valorously.

I recalled my bitter past. It seemed it was only yesterday that I left my native village after the accursed Japanese imperialists had killed my husband and burnt down my house. At that time, I dreamed, though vaguely, of my country's liberation and a new society in which women could live in happiness.

It was only later, when I joined the partisan unit and received training and education while fighting against the enemy, that I came to form a clear

conception as to the problem of the emancipation of women.

Comrade Commander complimented us that we women partisans had fought creditably all the time. Then, he said:

"...It is of course important for the women to fight for their emancipation and rights. One of the aims of our present struggle also lies precisely in the women's emancipation.

"But the women should guard against the tendency of ignoring the beautiful moral qualities inherent in the Korean women from olden times, putting too much stress on their emancipation, rights and equality.

"As you know, though Choon Hyang was a humble woman of low birth she stubbornly resisted the social evils of her days and remained chaste even when her life was at stake; and Sim Chung threw herself into the turbulent sea, sacrificing herself, believing that thus her blind father would regain his sight. Our women should preserve such lofty virtues. should be polite and keep themselves neat and trim. Woman should be womanly. Polite, simple language and behaviour will ennoble you and make people respect and trust you.

"In this respect, too, you women partisans should set good examples to the local folk..."

Comrade Commander went on to tell us about what a beautiful moral quality the Korean women had possessed as the women of a country which had been known as a "country of etiquette in the East" from olden times. His story was very interesting.

His story went over from general remarks on the life of the women to a detailed account of the principles which must be observed by the women partisans in the partisan life.

Comrade Commander taught us kindly about the

moral qualities and etiquette of the women and their behaviour, and about things which must be born in mind by the women partisans working with the sewing team and in the field kitchen.

I had worked for a long time both as a cook and a sewing member. He said that we cooks and sewing members should act always as kind mothers for the combatants.

Bearing his words in mind, we regarded our work as an important combat duty and devoted all our energies to it.

When our stock of grain ran out, the cooks made gruel with edible grass and did their best to make it good to taste. They also took care to serve the meals on time. Even when provisions ran out and not a grain could be obtained for days on end, we cooks picked edible grass and dug grass roots at night for the next day's meals before we lay down to sleep.

Attaching importance to the jobs done by us women partisans, Comrade Commander always made a great point of our being exact in our duty and taught us to direct special attention to sanitation and to keeping ourselves neat and clean.

Bearing the words of Comrade Commander deep in our minds, we did our best to carry them into effect. But sometimes things would not turn out as we wished and caused us much trouble. Though we are now living in easy circumstances, in modern houses with water service and furnished with all conveniences, the situation was different in those days when often we did not even have water.

There was often not enough water to cook the meal in the deep mountains in severe winter, and we had to wash our faces with snow. So, those who were sluggish would sometimes be unable to wash away the soot which stuck to their faces while they

were sleeping by the campfire at night.

There was once a woman partisan who had got her hands chapped in the cold and was ashamed to appear before other partisan fighters when serving the meal.

Then, Comrade Commander called us together and spoke words of praise and comfort to us for our trying work in the rigorous cold. He went on to say in a gentle voice that we women partisans had to take better care of our bodies. He said:

"... If you were more diligent, you could keep your hands from getting chapped. It is by no means a small matter whether you keep your hands clean or not. It is a matter of whether or not you make the partisans' meals a cheerful affair, which, in the long run, will have an effect on their morale.

"It is therefore essential that you first make yourselves ideologically fit for the task. You must not be careless about things such as mending your uniforms in good time or washing your faces and combing your hair neatly in the morning. For that is routine and it expresses the mental state of the partisan fighters.

"A neatly-dressed army always has good discipline and fights well..."

His words came home to us. Even when there was no water and we were experiencing great inconvenience, he got up early in the morning and washed his face with snow; he sternly told the partisans to have their hair cut and to shave regularly.

After that, we made it a rule to get up before dawn and wash our faces and hands with melted snow before setting about cooking.

After the meal, we washed the tableware with the water we got by melting snow, and polished it. In those days we used big basins to cook meals. So, the bottoms of the basins would get black from

smoke. If we left them without cleaning even for one day, they became very sooty.

But the basins and tableware were always shining clean, for we cooks did not forget to polish them with ashes after using them. The cooking utensils and tableware were so clean that the comrades who carried them on their backs while we were on the march, would express their admiration by saying: "They are really so clean that the mere sight of them whets our appetite..."

After that, too, Commander Kim Il Sung directed deep attention to the life of us women partisans. Saying that women attracted the attention of people when they went among the local inhabitants, he made us carry spare dresses at all times and showed concern so that when there were ointments, beauty creams or the like among the war booty those things would be given without fail to the women partisans.

Inspired by such kind solicitude shown by him, we pledged to ourselves to carry out our revolutionary tasks with greater devotion.

His profound solicitude and care did not end here. All the time, whether in battles, on the march or at the camping ground, he showed a deep love and a warm care for us women partisans. So, even when we had to spend a night in bleak mountains, we felt warm at heart as if we were at our own homes together with our parents, so long as we were with Comrade Commander.

On that day, too, feeling warm and boundlessly happy at the fact that he was our Commander, we listened to him with utmost care not to miss even a word.

When we left the hut towards evening, the Chinese couple gave us a send-off, looking at us with envious eyes.

Watching them, we resolved firmly that we would

do their share as well as our own in our struggle, so that they might be freed from the humiliated, painful circumstances as soon as possible and enjoy a happy life in a new society.

"We should Value People's Interests"

By HAN IK SOO

Late in October 1936 our unit under the command of Commander Kim Il Sung was temporarily billeted at a place near Jiyanggai, Erhshihtaokou of Changpai county.

One day, two of our comrades, who had been to Yaksoodong district for subsidiary food, came back, leading a fat black ox along. They were smiling all over their faces.

They made a report on their mission at the headquarters and were coming out, when they found us gathered around the ox.

The two comrades came to us and told us the story.

"...Our mission was to glean leaves of radish and cabbage scattered on vegetable plots after the harvest. It was not easy to collect them from the snow-covered and frozen plots.

"We wandered about vegetable plots one after the other, gathering waste greens. We had come near Yaksoodong before we realized it. Yet less than one third of our knapsacks had been filled. That was not enough to feed our men once and, therefore,

instead of going back, we continued gathering on the vegetable plots behind Yaksoodong.

"We came across, by chance, old man Bak and a few other peasants of Yaksoodong. They were on their way home from the market. They hailed us when they recognized in us partisans. The keen-minded old man Bak guessed that we had come for subsidiary food and that we had been gathering waste vegetables on the plots where the crops had already been harvested. He invited us to come with him to the village, telling us he would find some vegetables or potatoes for the partisans.

"But we could not accept his invitation. First of all, we were not instructed to go to villages for subsidiary food and, secondly, we all remembered that what Commander Comrade Kim Il Sung wanted us to do was to secure subsidiary food for ourselves so as not to trouble the inhabitants.

"The old man, when he learned he could not easily persuade us to accept his proposal, called his fellow peasants around him and discussed something among themselves in a whisper. Presently he came to us and, handing to us the rope around the neck of their ox, implored us to take it.

"This unexpected offer surprised us. We declined it. But the peasants remarked in unison: This is a gift from the inhabitants of Yaksoodong and we ask you to take it. They put the rope in my hand and said good-bye to us.

"We were at a loss what to do. We could hardly bring ourselves to reject the earnest offer of the people. Nor could we take the ox without instruction from headquarters.

"At that moment we remembered what the cooks of our detachment had been worried about when preparing meal. They would say; "How can we serve Comrade Commander only rice and salt!"

"This thought overpowered us and we, in com-

pliance with the request of old man Bak and other peasants of Yaksoodong, took the ox with us to the detachment..."

This was the story of the ox, which appealed to us very much. We could not find words to express our gratitude to old man Bak and other inhabitants of Yaksoodong. The prospect of eating beef after a long time gladdened us.

Just about that time, Commander Kim Il Sung happened to come out into the yard.

He came up to the ox and stroked its back giving careful look over it.

We stopped short and stood looking at him.

We saw him touching the broad, fat back of the ox, its fancy bridle and the bells and coins attached to it.

The bridle was made of elegantly twisted hemp yarn and was wrapped in red cloth, and its bells and coins were shining. All this showed the exquisite handwork of the owner and his care.

Comrade Commander turned away from the ox and looked at us.

We stood motionless as if riveted to the ground.

"We must have gone against his will..." A feeling of guiltiness ran through us.

We were ill at ease, anxiously waiting for him to speak.

"...Halt for a moment your work of preparing the meal..." Comrade Commander said in an unruffled tone and asked us to come and sit around him.

"...What do you say to returning the ox to its owner..." he asked, after looking round us.

We felt our faces burning at the thought that we had erred. Those two comrades who had brought the ox with them could hardly raise their heads.

When he saw we were perplexed, the Commander told us in a persuading tone:

"It's not from my ignorance of the people's sincerity that I propose we return the ox to the owner. For us partisans who love and fight for the people, it is our duty to return the ox to the owner . . ."

Comrade Commander paused a moment to look around our little group. Then he resumed, telling us that the greater sincerity the people showed us unsparingly spending their property, the bigger concern we should have for their conditions and interests.

"The inhabitants of Yaksoodong presented their only ox to us in their earnest wish to help us. We're boundlessly grateful to them.

"I can appreciate the motive of those comrades who brought the ox with them. They could not reject the earnest offer of the people.

"If those comrades had refused to take the ox to the end, the people of Yaksoodong would have sent us the ox by hook or by crook, for they know our difficult conditions.

"This is how the people love us partisans. They spare nothing in helping us with all their hearts.

". . . Do you know why I propose that we return the ox? That is because the owner obviously has deep attachment for it and the future of the people's life of Yaksoodong depends on it.

"Look at the bridle and the bells and coins on it! You can see for yourselves how the owner has tended and loved it.

"The bells must in all probability have been kept with care for generations in the owner's family.

"The grandma of the family must have brought the coins with her, tying them to the string of her pouch, when she was married into the family, and had treasured them all her life. This is one of the ways our mothers show their attachment to the ox. . ."

The earnest words of Comrade Commander made us think deeply of our parents and homes.

I reflected on how my grandfather had wanted to have his own ox to plough the field with and how hard he had endeavoured, but all in vain. My father, too, had done back-breaking toil on an empty stomach. But to plough the field with his own ox was out of the question. I remembered how a poor peasant in our home village had decorated a calf with his valuables and tended it with all his care, when he had managed to buy it out of the money he had earned by the sweat of the brow and going hunger.

"...Another reason why we should return the ox is that its owner and other peasants in Yaksoodong cannot do without it.

"The ox must be all the property of its owner. And judging by the fact that there are only a few cows in the whole of Yaksoodong, the ox must be playing a decisive role in the farming in Yaksoodong.

"What if we were to slaughter the ox simply on the ground that it was presented to us, without taking into account the actual situation of the village?

"From tomorrow on the owner of the ox and other peasants of Yaksoodong will be taking its place in doing work. They will be carrying burdens on their backs and turning up fields with hoes. What a hard time they will be having!

"We'll only be causing them greater suffering and difficulty in their living by accepting their gift..."

What profound concern and love for the people Comrade Commander had! What keen attention he paid to the interests and conditions of the people!

We were so deeply moved by the lofty and profound ideas of Comrade Commander that we felt a lump in our throats. Never had we shown such deep concern for the people, although we had been

taught by Comrade Commander to value the interests of the people and we had always kept in our minds his teachings since we joined the ranks of revolution for the freedom and happiness of the people.

The two comrades who had brought the ox with them stepped forward and said in a choking voice:

"Comrade Commander, we've gone against your will. We've violated discipline which calls for us to approach the masses with affection... Our behaviour deserves punishment."

It was not only those two comrades who were to blame. They had taken the ox to the unit at the request of the peasants, without deep consideration of the interests and position of the people. What about ourselves? Had not we been preoccupied with the thought of slaughtering the ox to eat until we were convinced of our mistake, had not we been thoughtlessly behaving in disregard of the people's interests?

Had any one of us ever paid heed to the bridle which showed the earnest handwork of its maker and the coins telling of the deep care of the people? Had any one of us ever thought of what pains the loss of the ox would cause the peasants?

We were all ashamed of ourselves for our lack of training as revolutionaries, and lowered our heads.

Comrade Commander looked round us for a while before he went on to say in a kindly tone:

"I didn't mean to reproach you when I proposed we return the ox... But I would like to emphasize again that it is our duty to love the people."

No sooner had Comrade Commander finished these words than the two comrades asked him in a trembling voice:

"Comrade Commander, may we take the ox back to its owner right now?"

The Commander was very pleased to hear them.

"You are right. Return the ox right away and prepare food, using the vegetables you've collected."

When he gave us permission we all became animated and were about to get up to resume the cooking.

Comrade Commander gesticulated, saying that he had another point to emphasize:

"...We should bear in mind at all times, at any place we go and in whatever unfavourable circumstances we may find ourselves that we are men of a people's army. We should base ourselves in our thinking and activity on the stand of defending the people's interests and giving them wholehearted assistance. We must do so when we give them a helping hand and ask them for help, not to speak of when we fight the enemy.

"It is for the people that we fight the enemy, living on bark and grass roots and going through hardships of every description. It is also for our love of the people that we do our utmost not to trouble people, although we ourselves are going without meals.

"This is why we enjoy warm affection and wholehearted support of the people. We must always bear in mind that we shall not enjoy people's support unless we love them..."

We got down to our cooking, bearing deep in mind once again that it is the supreme goal and duty of the Communists to love the people and fight for their freedom and happiness.

Programme of Action for Underground Work

By RI HOON

October 15, 1936 will live forever in my memory. That day I was summoned by Comrade Kim Il Sung, whom I had been so earnestly longing to meet. At that time I was engaged in underground work at a branch of the Fatherland Restoration Association in the valley of Shinchiutaokou.

His summons was so unexpected that it seemed unreal at first as if in a dream.

I could not restrain my joy and excitement; with a throbbing heart I went with the partisan member who had come for me.

The thought that I was going to see him, which was something I had little expected, threw me in a trance of joy. For I had been harbouring a burning desire to meet General Kim Il Sung when he came to the Changpai area.

"What shall I say first when I meet the General?..." Thinking thus, I walked tens of miles at almost a running pace after the partisan member, oblivious of my straw-sandals and feet wraps getting soaked in the wet snow.

Upon arrival at Hsiaoyentsun, I was led to the house of an old Chinese.

When I opened the door and entered the room, I saw a dignified, young man seated together with another comrade. "Certainly he must be General Kim Il Sung!" I thought with a glow of happiness.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was very glad to see me. Grasping my hand, he said: "You must have had a hard time coming here in this cold!"

I made my bow and squatted down near the door. At this, he asked me to make myself at home and sit nearer to him.

Then he began to talk, looking at me with smiling eyes.

Comrade Kim Il Sung first asked me in detail about my family affairs and my life, about the living conditions and work of the people in our valley, and about the movement of the enemy.

He was so warm-hearted and unreserved, treating me like his younger brother, that I felt he was one of my old acquaintances and, forgetting that this was our first meeting, I told him at length about the living conditions and work of the people in our valley.

At that time we had replaced, by the help of our organization, the heads of 9 villages including Kuanfangtzu in Shihchiutaokou with those of a good class origin and with a strong revolutionary consciousness.

Meanwhile, we waged a struggle to obtain "permission to fell trees," which was vital to the interests of the people in Shihchiutaokou, to the stabilization of their life.

We closely combined this struggle with our struggle for expanding and consolidating our revolutionary organizations.

In anticipation of the advance of the partisan unit to the Changpai area, the organization, while

actively encouraging the people to do various side jobs, made preparations to assist the partisans not merely spiritually but materially as well. Thus, a water mill was set up in Hsiaoyentsun.

As no water mill was available elsewhere than in Shihchiutaokou at that time, people in Erhshihtaokou and many other places had to go to Hsiaoyentsun when they wanted to hull their rice. We had decided to put aside the rice which we received as the charges of the mill and send it to the partisan unit.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was very pleased to hear my report on the life of the people and the activities of the revolutionary organization in Shihchiutaokou. Especially, he praised us over and over again for setting up a water mill in Hsiaoyentsun and encouraging the people to do various side jobs. He expressed gratitude for the wholehearted support given by the people to the partisans.

In order to provide a better life for such a good people as soon as possible, he said, a still more resolute struggle must be waged against Japanese imperialism and its stooges. Thus, he encouraged us to fight valorously.

That night, together with Comrade Kim Il Sung, I was to go to the Heihsiatzukou secret camp.

The organization saw to it that the huge amount of aid goods—hundreds of *mal* of rice (one *mal* equals 7.5 kg.), cotton cloth, footwear, etc.—which had been stocked up at Hsiaoyentsun for delivery to the partisan unit, was transported to the Heihsiatzukou secret camp. The column heading for Heihsiatzukou consisted of over 270 people.

Walking towards Heihsiatzukou, my heart was leaping with joy. Oblivious of fatigue, I followed the column through the thick forests of white firs and pine-nut trees, thus covering 36 kilometres with 5 *mal* of rice on my back.

It was the next morning when we arrived at the

Heihsiatzukou secret camp. I stayed there for a day.

Though busy, Comrade Kim Il Sung found time to call me in three times and personally told me in detail about how to carry on the underground work in the future.

Thinking back of that time, I seem still to see him clearly as he taught me so kindly and in such simple language. I recall his words even now.

"The doom of Japanese imperialism is inevitable because of its inner contradictions, and our revolution is bound to win. This is an established truth and a logical conclusion of historical development. But I do not mean that the Japanese imperialists will perish of themselves. The Korean and Chinese peoples must unite and rise to overthrow them.

"To this end, we must rally broad sections of the people closely in the struggle against Japanese imperialism and make them give active moral and material support to the partisans who are routing the enemy with arms in their hands.

"For whom and for what purpose are the partisans fighting? Needless to say, they are fighting to rout the Japanese imperialist robbers and liberate our country as soon as possible so that the entire people may enjoy a happy, free, bountiful life in our own homeland.

"The people assist the partisans because our armed struggle expresses the vital interests of the Korean people. Yet, not all of the people are well aware of the aims of the struggle waged by the partisans. What we should always bear in mind is, therefore, to awaken more people, even only one more person, rally them around the Fatherland Restoration Association and rouse them to the struggle against Japanese imperialism.

"You must ensure this by conducting underground work successfully..."

Saying this, Comrade Kim Il Sung explained to

me in detail how to carry on the work:

"... The underground struggle is as important as the armed struggle.

"If you are to be successful in underground work, you must direct special attention to the following points.

"First of all, it is important to be vigilant at all times. Any slight relaxation can spoil not only an important mission but sometimes an undertaking as a whole. So, you must be on your guard at all times and all places.

"And you must maintain absolute secrecy. Secrecy is the life of the organization.

"Also, you must be always bold in carrying on underground work. The old saying goes, 'Nothing venture, nothing have.' In underground work, too, you can be successful only when you are bold enough to go deep among the enemy and carry on the work.

"Underground work also demands of you the ability to tactfully adapt yourself to circumstances.

"If you are prudent enough in everything to make thoroughgoing preparation after mature reflection, the work will go smoothly.

"In your work, you must always remember that you are not alone. You have many revolutionary comrades and the people around you. If you work relying on them, you will not fail in anything.

"Taking advantage of your legal position as 'village head,' you must win the 'confidence' of the enemy on the one hand and earn the support of the popular masses on the other.

"This of course is not an easy job. But you must do so at all costs. To this end, you must, first of all, direct your keenest attention to preventing the agents of the enemy from stealing into the underground organizations. I have heard that some of them have found their way into Shihchiutaokou, too, and are

entrenched there. You must keep a sharp eye on them..."

Then Comrade Kim Il Sung went on to speak in detail about how to make use of the enemy's stooges. He said:

"It is advisable to enlist their services in our work and use them for our own ends as far as possible.

"It is fair and proper for the partisan unit to finish off the pro-Japanese agents. Underground workers, however, should not do so, unless they are the worst kinds of agents or the circumstances make it inevitable to do so, but should utilize them. Should the underground workers dispose of the enemy's running dogs carelessly, it can lead to exposing themselves to the enemy. Even if it does not expose them, it may cause the enemy to intensify their watch. This, in the long run, will make it difficult to carry on the underground work.

"On the other hand, if the agents are made good use of, the underground workers can easily ferret out the enemy's secrets and can manoeuvre better by accommodating their actions to the movements of the enemy.

"In the anti-Japanese struggle, everyone who has a scrap of national conscience should be won over to our side. This is an important principle in our activities. It must therefore be borne in mind that there may be found people even among the propertied classes who will go hand in hand with us in the anti-Japanese struggle to get rid of national oppression.

"Even though they are such that we cannot expect much from them, we must prevent them from going over to the enemy's side and acting viciously against us. If we ensure this, it will also mean a success.

"Meanwhile, we must thoroughly isolate the pro-

Japanese agents from the masses and prevent them from banding together. If such rascals group together, it will bring nothing good.

"We must prevent such puppet organizations of the enemy as the 'Concordia Association' and 'Self-defence Corps' from exerting influence upon the masses. So, if our comrades get into these organizations, bring the organizations under their tight control and undermine them from within, the puppet organizations will become impotent..."

In conclusion, Comrade Kim Il Sung repeatedly stressed the need to give active assistance to the partisan unit, ferret out the enemy's secrets and pass them promptly on to the partisan unit. Then he told me to work faithfully under the guidance of Comrade Kim Joo Hyun and Ri Je Soon.

"His words seemed to open up wide vistas before my eyes. For the first time I realized clearly for what and how I should fight.

Every word of Comrade Kim Il Sung was deeply engraved in my mind, and I firmly resolved again and again to live up to his teachings and his profound confidence in me, by carrying out underground work successfully.

Apprehensive for my personal safety, Comrade Kim Il Sung taught me in detail how to avoid the enemy's suspicion when I returned to the village. He told me that as soon as I went down to the village, I should proceed to the police station and report that "I had been captured by the communist army but managed to escape," and then I should say: "I can not live in Shihchiutaokou any longer and I want to move to Erhshihtaokou. So, I beg you to protect me."

In this way, he paid scrupulous attention even to such a small thing which slipped my notice.

When I was about to set out on my journey home, he told me to wait a moment, and brought out a

bottle of wine.

"The people sent me this wine as a gift. A drink of it will invigorate and make you feel less cold," he said. With this he personally filled the glass full to the brim and offered it to me. Embarrassed I hardly knew what to do. As I looked up at him, tears came to my eyes.

Comrade Kim Il Sung urged me to drink. I drained the glass at a draught. And I thought to myself: "I will carry out the tasks the General has given me even if it costs me my life."

Oblivious of cold, I pushed my way through the deep snow in the thick forests of Heihsiatzukou.

As soon as I returned from the mountain, I proceeded to the Erhshihtaokou police station to "report," as I had been taught to by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The enemies believed my words. They nodded their approval when I told them that I could not tell where I had been taken because I was blindfolded when taken by the "communist army." As they had heard the same thing from Comrade Ri Je Soon and other comrades, they accepted it as a fact, believing that blindfolding people when taking them away was a "common practice of the communist army."

After that, I moved without being questioned over to Erhshihtaokou and lived there. And I frequented Shihchiutaokou, carrying on my activity. I made it a rule to discuss things with Comrade Ri Je Soon.

The words of Comrade Kim Il Sung were teachings and a programme of action not only for our organization but also to all the underground organizations under the Fatherland Restoration Association. His teachings on underground work penetrated deep down even to lower organizations through many local political workers.

Upholding his teachings the Changpai County Committee of the Fatherland Restoration Association

mobilized its subordinate organizations and worked vigorously to carry his teachings into reality.

As a result, from the inception of the Fatherland Restoration Association, assistance to the partisans was organized in a big way in areas around Hsinhsingtsun, Kuanfangtze, Chuchingtung, Taochuanli and many other places.

In one or two months in the spring of 1937 alone, the people of over 20 villages of Changpai county sent the People's Revolutionary Army more than ten sacks of rice, over 100 *pil* of cotton fabrics (one *pil* equals about 60 metres), more than 200 pairs of work shoes and over 300 pairs of straw-sandals.

In a little over one year, the Changpai County Committee of the Fatherland Restoration Association built up a solid political base by uniting tens of thousands of people in its organizations.

And it trained many Communists in the course of actual struggle and sent to the partisan detachments hundreds of excellent young people selected by the organizations, thus actively making for the increase of the fighting efficiency of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Such a big success was ascribable to the personal guidance of Comrade Kim Il Sung and the unremitting struggle of Comrade Ri Je Soon and other members of the Fatherland Restoration Association who, faithfully following the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung, fought with single devotion.

I can never forget Comrade Kim Il Sung who, overcoming difficulties even in such a grim adversity, always led us to victory, and the splendid activities of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army personally led by Comrade Kim Il Sung. Those activities constantly inspired us with redoubled courage in our struggle.

The brilliant victories won by the Korean People's Revolutionary Army first in the battles of Tateshui

and Hsiaoteshui in September 1936 and later in many battles at Pantsaikou, Erhshihtaokou, Erhtaokang, and other places of Changpai county, were an impelling factor inspiring broad masses of the people to the anti-Japanese struggle.

As Comrade Kim Il Sung said, we were by no means alone and our struggle was always conducted in close contact with the partisans.

An energetic struggle was waged by the Shihchiutaokou organization for the implementation of his teachings.

While consolidating our organization, we organized and mobilized broad masses of the people to carry on the work of aiding the partisans in a big way.

Immediately after the Bochunbo Battle the 6th, 4th and 2nd Divisions of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army held a celebration meeting in Shihchiutaokou. For the units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, it was the first meeting since they had left Sikang to make a sortie into the homeland which was then under the occupation of the Japanese colonialists. After successful operations in the homeland, the partisan units were returning to Shihchiutaokou. The meeting was really heartwarming.

The Korean People's Revolutionary Army units were to sum up the results of their offensive operations in the homeland and to celebrate the Dano (May 5th of the lunar calendar) Festival together with Comrade Kim Il Sung here in the Shihchiutaokou valley. It was after a long interval that they could celebrate a holiday together with Comrade Kim Il Sung.

At the good news, the organizations of the Fatherland Restoration Association made preparations to welcome the partisans.

The Shihchiutaokou organization decided to en-

tertain the entire members of the partisan units with noodles. We went from house to house to collect more than 100 *mal* of starch which the people had set aside for their use. But we did not have enough apparatuses to make noodles for hundreds of fighters. We went to the mountain and cut basswood trees, with which we made cylinders; we flattened out kerosene cans and holed them. With these things we made tens of noodle-making apparatuses in a single day. This was how we were able to entertain the participants in the historic welcome rally held at the mountainous village of Tesantsun, with noodles, an expression of the true hearts of the people in the Shihchiutaokou.

At the welcome meeting the Changpai County Committee of the Fatherland Restoration Association presented the People's Revolutionary Army with a congratulatory flag and a tremendous amount of aid goods in the name of the entire members of the Fatherland Restoration Association.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from home and Comrade Bak Keum Chul made a congratulatory speech on their behalf.

After the meeting the people sang and danced in company with the partisans. The noise of their merry-making resounded through the whole valley of Shihchiutaokou.

We used this occasion not only to bring the people in personal contact with the partisans and to heighten their morale and confidence, but also to educate and train those members of the Fatherland Restoration Association who had taken an active part in aiding the partisans.

As a result of the unflagging struggle of our organization, more than 600 people were united in the Fatherland Restoration Association and a large number of people were rallied around it in the Shihchiutaokou valley alone which was 40 kilometres wide with over 400 houses scattered about. Added to this,

more than 20 excellent members of the Association and youths and boys were picked out from among the workers and peasants and sent to the partisan detachments.

The instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung always served as a guide and a programme of action in our work.

It happened some time after the Korean People's Revolutionary Army came to Changpai.

After discussing how to procure winter provisions for the partisans, our organization decided to make use of landlord Jo Duk Il for the purpose.

Frightened by the advance of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army to the Changpai area, he moved his family and all his property to the seat of Changpai county.

We discussed the matter with Comrades Kim Joo Hyun and Ri Je Soon and sent a "notification" to the landlord in the name of the partisan unit.

When the landlord received the "notification," he trembled with fear, unable to decide what to do; he was too afraid of the Japanese to aid the partisans and also too fearful of the partisans to report the matter to the Japanese.

We got wise to this and called on him.

As a matter of fact, what prevented him from making up his mind was not that he was stingy but that he was afraid of his exposure when he gave material support to the partisans. Therefore, I suggested an idea to him that while he aided the partisans secretly, he made a pretence of being looted outwardly.

At last we succeeded in pursuading him to offer 600 *mal* of husked rice, 100 pigs, 5 head of cows and 100 sacks of sugar, which were sent to the partisan unit. Many times after that the landlord sent provisions to the partisan unit.

Some time after the celebration meeting, Comrade Kim Joo Hyun and Ri Je Soon gave me the task of

infiltrating into the homeland with reconnoitring duties.

Comrade Kim Il Sung had always taught us that victory could be achieved when we were bold enough to penetrate into the enemy's area and employ all our resources in our manoeuvres. Acting upon his teaching, we fearlessly crossed the frontiers into the homeland and back, filtering into the dens of the enemy and collecting valuable information which was then forwarded to the partisan unit. The other organizations under the Changpai County Committee of the Fatherland Restoration Association, too, all worked in the same manner. There were many such examples. But things were by no means easy, we were confronted with a host of obstacles and difficulties.

Dismayed at the partisans' vehement activities, the enemy became more desperate in 1937.

The enemy closely guarded the frontiers, and devised a "Bogap system" (a system of community unit to maintain security) in order to make the people watch each other. When they thought they saw anything suspicious, they would punish the people collectively on the false charge of "having contact with the bandits." They did not hesitate to perpetrate shocking barbarities, setting villages on fire and killing the people en masse.

The enemy invented and spread a wicked story that the partisans were but "a drop in the ocean," they mobilized the "Concordia Association" and various other reactionary puppet organizations to deceive the popular masses and break their revolutionary spirit, resorting to all conceivable means.

They smuggled many spies into villages and prowled about like dogs to trace down the partisans and pry into the secrets of the underground organizations.

The enemy kept a sharper eye on the Shihchiutao-

kou valley, for the partisans were stationed at the farthest end of the valley. The Japanese "consulate" and several police sub-stations had dispatched more than 10 secret agents to our valley to act as their cat's paws at all times.

But no amount of such desperate "offensive" on the part of the enemy could damp the spirit of our people who lived and fought relying on the partisans. Their attempt to check our advance was hopeless.

To foil the "offensive" of the enemy, our organization worked more secretly and pulled through all the difficulties with greater tenacity.

The teaching of Comrade Kim Il Sung on isolating the stooges and utilizing them, served as a guide for us in surmounting so many hardships and difficulties in those days of adversity.

Once a Japanese spy named Tanaka came to our village to get information concerning the secret camps of the partisan unit and our organization.

To watch his every movement, we billeted him at the house of one of the members of the Fatherland Restoration Association. We contrived to send some members of the Association to go with him when he went out hunting, and they often took the Japanese all over the mountain all day long, pretending to be acting as guide for him. He got nothing after nearly one month's stay in our valley and returned to Erhshihtaokou empty-handed. We immediately informed the Association's Erhshihtaokou organization of this.

Later, this rascal was done away with secretly by our organization while running riot in Erhshihtaokou doing evil to the villagers.

In the Shihchiutaokou valley, there lived a certain Song, a spy of the Joongri police sub-station under the Hyesan police station. We decided to put him to corvees often, with the intention of isolating him from the people and preventing him from doing what he pleased.

Our organization so arranged matters that a meeting was held at which he found himself obliged to agree to forced labour under the pressure of the masses.

He was frequently sent to various sorts of forced labour, and he would sometimes complain against this. In such cases, we would prevail on him by referring to his loyalty as a "subject of the Japanese Empire." This would put him in a tight corner where he could not but agree.

Whenever we were to discuss the question of giving aid to the partisans, we chose the house of such a running dog as a meeting place. We would show a "notification" of the partisan unit at the meeting and make the stooge donate twice as much aid goods as the others on the ground that he was better off than anybody else.

Not only that, we sent the stooge on the errand of purchasing goods and, when we had to carry the aid goods to the partisan unit, took him along on the trip of transporting those goods. Upon returning to the village from the trip, we made him go and report to the police station, which put him in a suspicious light in the eyes of the police. As a result, the running dogs were estranged from the enemy and at last driven out of the village itself.

We used this method to expel Song and other secret agents and running dogs from our village.

Our work did not stop here. The organization gained control over the lackeys and utilized them in our struggle.

In July 1937 a detached force of the partisan unit including Comrades Kim Joo Hyun and Ma Dong Heui returned from the homeland after fulfilling their task at the Joongpyung Mine.

One day, the head of the Huatien police sub-station summoned me and a running dog called Ri to come to the sub-station.

Ri had served the enemy as a secret agent at Kuanfangtzu since the time when the Independence Army was active. But he was on intimate terms with my grandfather. Hence I pretended to respect him outwardly and made myself agreeable to him. In this way I won his confidence.

This led the man to make a confidant of me as the "village head." He reported everything to me with regard to the tasks the police sub-station gave him.

One day he, returning from the police sub-station, told me that the head of the sub-station had instructed him to ascertain if Choi Boong Nam and Kim Wun Sam did not have "contact with the bandits," saying that he had heard lately the "communist army" frequented Shihchiutaokou and carried away rice with them.

Informed of this, we took measures for the two comrades who were nuclear members of the organization of the Fatherland Restoration Association to win the "confidence" of the enemy and thus divert the attention of the enemy from those comrades.

When I heard that the head of the police sub-station wanted me to report at his office together with spy Ri, I thought something must certainly have cropped up.

I was quite worried if the Japanese had got wind of anything about the incident of the Joongpyung Mine.

As I learned later, the head of the police sub-station, presuming that the incident had something to do with our village, had decided, in collusion with the heads of other villages, to sound me out and if he scented anything suspicious from the words of spy Ri, would subject me to cross-examination.

On my way to the police sub-station, I put out a feeler to find out what was in Ri's mind, but he knew nothing much about the incident. So I said if he tried to talk about what he himself had no exact knowledge,

it would bring harm to both of us, and hence it would be wise for him to plead ignorance and shift everything on to my shoulders. I made him promise to do so.

As I had anticipated, when I arrived at the police sub-station, I found a drinking party had been arranged and the head of the police sub-station and the notorious village heads were sitting around the table.

The head of the police sub-station was the first to speak. He said that in connection with the intensified "activities" of "the communist bandits" in the area under the jurisdiction of his police sub-station of late, he wanted to discuss with the village heads measures for maintenance of public peace. This was why he asked the village heads to gather at his office, and he wished them to set forth their good views over wine.

But no one opened his mouth at first, all drinking wine in gloomy silence.

After a while, the head of the police sub-station abruptly put a question to me: "It seems the 'bandits' who made an appearance at the Joongpyung Mine passed through the Shihchiutaokou valley. What do you think about this, village head Ri?"

I replied with a nonchalant air, "Well, when the dogs bark at night, I think it must be bandits passing somewhere nearby." Then I held forth at length, stressing the need to strengthen the defences along the Amrok River.

I went on to say that if the "bandits" had "penetrated" into Korea through the Shihchiutaokou valley, not only I, the village head, but all the other heads of villages on the Amrok River who were present here were greatly responsible for it.

Though they had conspired among themselves beforehand to test me and see how I reacted, no one dared to come out against me when I finished speak-

ing. Thereupon, the head of the police sub-station questioned spy Ri searchingly.

But he, as told by me, repeating what the head of police sub-station said, pleaded ignorance and referred the Japanese to me for everything.

They tried to make me and Ri dead drunk and then worm secrets out of us. But they could not find the least fault with us.

Thereupon, the police chief sent away all the village heads, keeping only the spy Ri with him.

Spy Ri came home the next day and told me that the police chief asked him if a man named Kim Joo Hyun had not called at the house of village head Ri, if the man had not made contact with village head Ri when he came to the Joongpvung Mine, and if there did not exist an organization of the Fatherland Restoration Association.

With a good laugh as if nothing worried me, I asked him what he said in answer to the police chief. He said he told the Japanese that I was not such a man as that. He added that he said to the police chief: "There is no likelihood of such an organization existing, seeing that village head Ri of Erhshihtaokou stays at my home for the night when he comes to Shihchiutaokou, and even arranges for meetings of the village heads to be held at my house."

Thus, more than once we used the running dogs to divert the enemy's attention.

Acting upon the teaching of Comrade Kim Il Sung which served as the guide to our underground work, we registered great successes.

* * *

In July 1937 I was summoned by Comrade Kim Il Sung and went to Daidukgol in Tesantsun, Shihchiutaokou where I met him again.

He expressed satisfaction when I reported to him

about my activities since our last meeting, and said that it was necessary to continue the underground work fearlessly.

At this, I frankly asked him to allow me to join the partisan detachment.

But Comrade Kim Il Sung repeatedly emphasized the importance of the underground work. He said it was no less important than the direct armed struggle against the enemy. He told me to regard my work as a more honourable task and to be more daring and dexterous in carrying on the underground work in the midst of the enemy as "chief of security maintenance unit." This was necessary, he said, in view of the establishment of "collective settlements" by the enemy.

His words were imprinted deep on my mind. I pledged myself to carry out his instructions without fail.

After that, upholding the teaching of Comrade Kim Il Sung I kept on fighting for its implementation under the dreadful situation in which the enemy had set up "collective settlements" all over the Changpai area and were running riot.

Since then 25-26 years have already passed.

As firmly convinced now as in those days that the path indicated by Comrade Kim Il Sung will always lead us to victory, I am filled with an unshaken resolve to carry out my duties at all costs for a yet more blessed, hopeful future.

At the Village of Shangfengtung

By JUN MOON WOOK

Towards the end of December 1936 Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung came to the village of Shangfengtung, Shihchitaokou of Changpai county, personally leading a partisan unit.

It was night and snow was falling in big flakes when they arrived.

Ever since political workers were sent by Comrade Commander to work in the Changpai district, the people's life in the village had been gay and full of spirit. A branch of the Fatherland Restoration Association was set up and organizations of the Anti-Japanese National Salvation Youth Association and Children's Corps were formed in Chuchingtung.

I was in charge of the Shangfengtung sub-branch of the Chuchingtung chapter of the Anti-Japanese National Salvation Youth Association. That very night, I had met sub-branch members and returned home late. No sooner had I lain down than I fell into a deep sleep.

I was awakened at mid-night by approaching footsteps. Judging by the growing sounds of crunching

snow many people were approaching along the snowy road.

"Who can that be?" I wondered. I started out of my bed and went outside. Many villagers had turned out, too.

I saw in the bright moonlight long columns of men lined up in fine array. There were more than 200 men, it appeared.

They turned out to be men of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. They were our own soldiers for whom we had so anxiously awaited and longed to see.

The villagers welcomed the partisans with open arms, shook hands and hugged them passionately.

How impatiently we had awaited the day when we could meet the partisans, whenever the happy news reached us of the victorious battles the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led personally by Comrade Commander had fought against Japanese imperialism at Tateshui and Hsiaoteshui of Changpai county and at Pantsaikou and Erhtaokang after its advance into the areas along the Amrok River!

Our excitement and emotion were past description.

The villagers invited the partisans to their houses for the night. We young folk, overcome by emotion and excitement, could not sleep another wink that night.

"General Kim Il Sung must also have come... I'll go to see him when the day breaks," I said to myself and waited for dawn.

Next morning the partisans got up with the first streaks of dawn and set to work busily, sweeping the courtyards and mending damaged fences.

I went up to a partisan who was sweeping the courtyard of my house. I took the broom from his hands, and then asked him, as if in passing, what unit he belonged to. He merely said with a smile that

he belonged to the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and gave no further account of his unit.

"General Kim Il Sung has also come here, hasn't he?" I asked. I was so persistent that he at last gave in and confirmed that the General was present in our village.

The news, "General Kim Il Sung has come!" spread all over the village in an instant, from mouth to mouth and from door to door.

The villagers, young and old, turned out from early morning and moved about in excitement. The children, wearing thin clothes and their frost-bitten feet in straw-sandals, ran about the lanes in a festive mood. All faces were radiant with happy smiles.

Quite unexpectedly, though, we were informed that morning that Commander Kim Il Sung wanted to see us members of the Anti-Japanese National Salvation Youth Association.

My heart swelled with excitement.

"I have been holding General Kim Il Sung in such reverence for a long time, and now I can see him!" I said to myself.

In the meantime, however, I was somewhat concerned as to how to behave myself in his presence.

An elderly man with a stern look was my mental picture of General Kim Il Sung.

We went to the house where he was staying.

When a soldier announced our arrival, a well-built young commanding officer opened the door and welcomed us warmly, saying: "Come in, Comrades."

"He must be General Kim Il Sung," I thought.

He was a young general of about 25, contrary to my imagination of a man advanced in years and difficult of access to ordinary people.

He took off his overcoat, placed it on the floor, and sat down beside it. He asked us to sit down and make ourselves at home. We sat around him on the

mat-covered floor. We were anxious, thinking: "What will the General ask us about?"

I guessed he would certainly ask us about the organizational work of the Anti-Japanese National Salvation Youth Association in the village of Shangfengtung. But, contrary to my guess, he began calmly asking us one by one how we had come to Changpai; where we had lived before; how many family members we had; and how we were getting along.

Comrade Commander addressed us in such a frank manner that we poured out our hearts. Some comrades, who at first could hardly answer his questions properly, soon became spirited, and indignantly related how they had suffered and how cruelly the landlords had exploited them.

He listened to us attentively, apparently pained by the story of the people's sufferings. I had many things to tell because I had seen and experienced a great deal.

I recounted, among other things, our fight against the vicious landlords and officials, the stooges of Japanese imperialism.

There was a devilish landlord in our Pantsaikou of Changpai county.

This landlord, under the aegis of the police and by means of fraud and trickery, robbed the peasants of all their land cleared by the sweat of their brows, and drained them of their last ounce of rice under various pretexts.

The infuriated peasants broke into the landlord's house enclosed with earthen walls and dragged him out. They laid the landlord on the ground and, using him as a block, began to chop firewood. Each time the sharp edge of the axe fell and cut into the firewood, the landlord screamed as if he were meeting his end and pleaded for his life. After that the landlord was nicknamed "wood-chopping block."

I also related what I had gone through at Daijinpyung, South Hamgyung Province, before moving to Shangfengtung.

There was a ranger who, in black uniform and wearing a sabre at his waist, would often come to the mountainous village of Daijinpyung, beating people for no reason and fining them on one pretext or another.

Once the peasants had run out of provisions and barked pine trees for food. The ranger found this a good pretext to impose fines on the peasants. Using abusive language, he threatened village elders with arrest if they failed to pay the fines.

The ranger's arrogant behaviour infuriated the young villagers who were watching the scene. Together with other enraged village youths, I fell upon the scoundrel, seized him and thrust him under a big fallen tree.

I related the story a bit boastfully, secretly expecting a compliment from Comrade Commander for my deeds, for he must have had the strongest hatred for Japanese imperialists, landlords and capitalists.

Having heard me out, he said:

"... It is a very good thing that you have a strong hatred for Japanese imperialism and its stooges and you have high morale in fighting against them.

"As you have said, the landlords take away the grain from the peasants which the latter have raised by the sweat of their brows. We should fight against the landlords who kowtow before the Japanese imperialists. But we must understand clearly who are standing behind the landlords.

"Standing behind them are the Japanese imperialists, our biggest enemy. First of all, we must knock out the Japanese imperialists.

"You must understand, however, that you cannot make revolution merely by using your fists.

"You won't do away with the cruel nature of the

evil landlord as an exploiter, even if you frighten him by using his body as a chopping block, and you can hardly expect any change in our position by putting a certain ranger beneath a fallen tree.

"We must bear in mind that we are fighting the ferocious Japanese imperialists who are armed to the teeth..."

Having said this, Comrade Commander turned to me and, with a smile, asked what happened to the "wood-chopping block" landlord after that incident.

I hesitated a moment, at a loss for words. I was painfully conscious that after the incident, as he said, nothing changed in our position, but, rather, suppression and outrages by the Japanese imperialists became aggravated.

The "wood-chopping block," under the wing of the Japanese officials, took revenge upon us. This compelled many to leave the village.

Our family, too, was forced to pack up and leave the place at night, moving to the remote mountain village of Daijinpyung, South Hamgyung Province.

We could not, however, stay long at Daijinpyung, for the Japanese imperialists intensified their watch over the movements of the village folk after we taught the ranger a lesson, thus making it too hot for us. And we left that place, too.

Having heard me out, Comrade Commander remarked:

"...I told you! That sort of method will get you nowhere... To fight those scoundrels we must use different methods. The enemy fears not a few individual persons but the unity of the broad sections of the masses.

"When the broad masses of the people organize themselves and rise in a firmly united body against Japanese imperialism and its lackeys, their force will prove invincible.

"When we Korean People's Revolutionary Army

crush the brutal Japanese imperialists by an armed struggle and when the broad masses of the Korean and Chinese peoples are closely united in their fight against the Japanese imperialists, the enemy will find no escape from their doom. The Soviet Union is now gaining in strength everyday and the international situation is developing in favour of our revolution.

"What is important now is, therefore, to solidly build up the revolutionary organizations and unite in them as many people of all strata opposing Japanese imperialism as possible..."

Comrade Commander's words were pervaded with ardent revolutionary zeal and a firm conviction.

"... What is needed to organize and mobilize broad masses? In the first place, you must yourselves clearly know for whom you are fighting and how to fight.

"And you must have a clear understanding of world developments.

"Knowledge is power... You must acquaint yourselves with the struggle of workers and peasants and the movements of youth and students in Korea, and have a profound knowledge of the Chinese revolution, particularly of the Soviet Union. A mere ardent wish to organize, mobilize and unite the masses is not enough. If you have no knowledge of how to tackle matters, you cannot explain things to the masses of the people and persuade them to come out in the struggle against Japanese imperialism..."

Comrade Commander emphasized strongly the need for us to study hard to broaden our field of vision.

"... How should we study? It is advisable to debate on the subjects with which you are acquainted. One who has become familiar with a subject must explain it to others to share it with them. If you find anything beyond the bounds of your knowledge,

bring it up for discussion with others, and then your knowledge will be made profound and firm. . ."

Comrade Commander gave us a mimeographed copy of the Monthly "March First" and handed each of us a collection of revolutionary songs. Then, he spoke at length about the internal and external situation, on the mission of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and the tasks of the youth for the future.

His speech touched on the difficult theoretical problems ranging from the character of the Korean revolution to the driving force of the revolution and the object and methods of the struggle. Yet, it was not so difficult to understand or monotonous as we used to find things in books.

He explained things in simple language in consideration of our level of knowledge. His words drove home to me the mistakes I had made in my work.

Born and reared in a poor, out-of-the-way village and pinched with poverty, we had harboured a hatred for the Japanese imperialists and the landlords. But we had not yet been acquainted with the revolutionary theory and the ways and means of struggle.

Only now, by listening to Comrade Commander's words, were our eyes opened, and we felt as though wide vistas were unfolding before us.

The same day, Comrade Commander met members of the Fatherland Restoration Association and had a long talk with them.

After the talk, the partisans and villagers gathered to enjoy hours of amusement together.

The partisans sang songs, clapping their hands and dancing in a circle, and gave harmonica concerts. They also taught us young folk the "Song of the Soviet" and "Song of Liberation of Women" and many other revolutionary songs.

That night Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung

left our village with the partisan unit, amidst a warm send-off of the villagers.

Our meeting with General Kim Il Sung made us realize clearly that the legendary "General from Heaven," "a General leaping over mountains," was none other than the finest son of the Korean people, a people subjected to exploitation and oppression, and an outstanding General who was looking far ahead into the future of the Korean people with his clairvoyance.

People who met Comrade Commander were struck with admiration for his profound, comprehensive knowledge of politics.

That was why all the villagers of Shangfengtung said unanimously: "Now fortune has turned to smile on the Koreans!" "Now that General Kim Il Sung has come to Changpai, the days of Japanese imperialism are numbered!" They rallied more closely around the anti-Japanese organizations and spared nothing to aid the partisans after Comrade Commander's visit to their village.

Especially, we young people, acting upon Comrade Commander's instructions, did all we could to unite the masses around the anti-Japanese organizations and aid the partisans. And many of the young men, on the recommendation of the organizations, left the village in the wake of the partisans led by General Kim Il Sung to join their ranks.

Together with several other comrades of our village, I, too, joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in April 1937. This is how I participated in the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

He Shares Sweets and Bitters with His Men

By KIM RYONG YUN

It was in December, 1936, that I met Comrade Kim Il Sung for the first time. Before I met him personally, I had always imagined him in clothes marking him off from the rank and file and hard of access.

I had pictured him to be quite extraordinary because he was known as a legendary hero who "has about him the genius loci of Mt. Baikdoo" and "strikes the Japanese with preternatural swiftness, leaping over mountains, appearing and disappearing here and there in a flash."

But what struck me most when I met him first was, contrary to all my expectations, his simplicity.

Still fresh in my memory is my first meeting with him at the secret camp in Mt. Hungtoushan. Two young men and I from Chuchingtung went to the secret camp in Mt. Hungtoushan to join the partisan unit. The company commander told me to wait until Commander Kim came, handing me an "Armymen's Manual" which contained the essentials of army life. There were some twenty partisans at the

place beside me. Resting with them, I waited impatiently for Comrade Kim Il Sung to come and decide the matter of my enlistment in the partisan unit.

Towards noon we were informed that he was coming. The thought that "Commander Kim is coming!" made my heart throb.

Presently a group of people was seen coming along the snow-covered forest path at the entrance to the secret camp area. I tried hard to make up my mind which of them was he, the Commander. At first, I tried to distinguish him from others by his clothes. But none of them was dressed in a different style from the others.

So, I thought to myself that the group must be an advance group, and the Commander be following behind. I watched to see if there were any more people coming after them, paying no special attention to this group.

Yet, a young cadre among the group attracted my attention all the same. He was tall and of sturdy build.

Though he, like ordinary partisans, wore a khaki uniform, gaiters and working shoes, there was something extraordinary about him which seemed to mark him off from others in the group.

His eyes were shining and his face was beaming with smiles. There was something dignified yet generous in his looks, which drew me towards him.

While walking, he talked genially with other members of the group, and everyone of them listened to him attentively.

Now I saw the company commander and his men gazing steadily at the young cadre.

I asked one of the partisans quietly who he was, and the partisan answered that he was Commander Kim.

I felt my face burning hot and my heart throbbing

fast. I did not know what to do, and could not take my eyes off him.

The company commander, standing at the right end of the lined-up partisans, gave a command and stepped forward towards him and reported.

Raising his hand, the young cadre returned the salute and told the company commander to order the partisans stand at ease. Then he shook hands with every partisan, asking him about his health and study, exchanging civilities with him. When he found a pale comrade, he asked what ailed him. He patted a comrade on his shoulder, encouraging him.

While looking at him, we three newcomers felt as if we had already become his soldiers, and were swept by a feeling of boundless happiness and warmth. We silently pledged ourselves:

"We will join the unit and fight to the best of our strength, enjoying the General's deep affections like those men!"

Noticing us standing behind the ranks, he approached us and shook our hands one by one, saying:

"You are from Chuchingtung, aren't you? You are probably Comrade Ryong Yun, am I right?"

He seemed to have received a report about our arrival before he came.

"Yes, I am Kim Ryong Yun," I answered, wondering how he could know me even by name. It was a puzzle to me.

It was only after I joined the partisan unit and began to lead a partisan life under his personal guidance that I found out he remembered even the name of each ordinary member of the Changpai District National Salvation Youth Association.

The partisan life made me feel more keenly about his deep affection for his men, and his simplicity moved me profoundly. He treated us ordinary partisans open-heartedly like his own children, sharing sweets and bitters with us.

When our unit marched from Changpai to Fusung, to my surprise, I found him wearing old, mended shoes. How could Comrade Commander, not an ordinary soldier, be in such shoes? I thought. When I met the orderly I asked him if there were no new shoes for the Commander.

"He was carrying with him a pair of reserve shoes," answered the orderly anxiously. "But that one pair of shoes he has given to one of the men... I don't know what to do. Everything we set aside for him, he tells us, should be given to the men. Even the sole pair of shoes and the last piece of underwear. I simply don't know how to secure them again for him..."

A few days later, I saw Comrade Commander personally mending his shoes by a campfire. He had given out his new shoes to a soldier and there he was mending his old shoes without sleeping while everyone was asleep! His great love for the rankers touched me to the core once again.

This happened once near Fusung.

We ran out of provisions. We soldiers ate dry-vegetable soup. But to him we offered a bowl of gruel made of ground rice that we had been saving for emergency.

But, he would not take it. He came out to us with the gruel bowl, and asked us:

"Why have you made gruel of ground rice for me? The dry-vegetable soup is tasty. Let's mix this with the soup!"

Then he emptied the gruel into our soup pot, and told us to eat it together with him. We didn't have time to stop him. We were at a loss what to do. We really felt bad about it.

"Now the gruel of ground rice which we have prepared specially for him has gone. What should we give him for the meal?" we thought, sitting quite dazed, at our wit's end.

As for him, he began to eat the dry-vegetable soup with relish, saying that it was as delicious for the poor Korean peasants as beef tea was for the rich. We followed suit and began to eat the soup. And as we were listening to his words, we felt the soup was really tasty.

Sitting around him, we ate the meal in high spirits, talking about all sorts of things.

Sitting there at the table, I felt immensely happy, thinking that there existed a love here in the thick forests, a love like that of the parents whom we left behind in the native villages and who used to do everything to dress and feed their children well while wearing tatters and suffering from hunger themselves.

So far as ranking was concerned, it was true that there really existed quite a great gap between the Commander and the ordinary soldier. But he always showed such a profound affection for us that it made us feel at ease in his presence.

Here is another example. In January 1938, we were doing military and political study at the Matangkou secret camp.

In the daytime we studied politics and military science and in the evening he lectured on the situation in Korea and international affairs. Sometimes, we amused ourselves by singing and dancing in his presence.

Once, he sang revolutionary songs and danced with us. I was simply astonished that our Commander who led large troops in battles and was so stern and merciless in annihilating the Japanese invaders everywhere would play so joyously with us rankers.

Officers and men, welded into one, sang at the top of their voice and danced happily. This made us immeasurably happy.

As days went by, we felt ever closer to him. But I must say that he was very rigid when admon-

ishing us for our faults. He reasoned with us on our mistakes, with parental love, just as the parents would do with their children to make them good persons. That was why we all could be steeled ideologically and politically and united still more firmly.

The longer my partisan life, the more profound my realization that in the humanitarian, open-hearted and simple character of Comrade Kim Il Sung lay a great might which could perform miracles. My personal experience taught me this.

This simple and open-hearted character of Comrade Kim Il Sung welded the anti-Japanese partisans into an iron unit in the past and assured an unbreakable bonds between the partisans and the people as a guarantee of victory.

Today, it constitutes the source of the force which has firmly united our Party with its membership of over 1.3 million, the great force which is leading forward millions of Chullima riders and the entire people who are rallied firmly around the Party.

Document generated by Anna’s Archive around 2023-2024 as part of the DuXiu collection (https://annas-blog.org/duxiu-exclusive.html).

Images have been losslessly embedded. Information about the original file can be found in PDF attachments. Some stats (more in the PDF attachments):

{
  "filename": "YV80MDI3NDMwOC56aXA=",
  "filename_decoded": "a_40274308.zip",
  "filesize": 14302418,
  "md5": "a597e90b6596a191a0ff126e0228c649",
  "header_md5": "418cbf2ccedf5de067001d4802093dd0",
  "sha1": "afb8566d82cd79bcb80685281b14890835cafe8b",
  "sha256": "d164b300baea5d8a055fc8821aba3afac56ed99a8cc66554fdb78bd3a7dd3fdf",
  "crc32": 2919937042,
  "zip_password": "",
  "uncompressed_size": 14493174,
  "pdg_dir_name": "a_40274308",
  "pdg_main_pages_found": 245,
  "pdg_main_pages_max": 245,
  "total_pages": 249,
  "total_pixels": 768889856,
  "pdf_generation_missing_pages": false
}